



Spring 2023

A Word from the Headteacher...

Greg Portman

Firstly, congratulations to all our wonderful year 11s who completed their GCSE exams this term. We recognise this is a challenging time for our young people and we were impressed by their maturity and hardwork in the run up to the exams and how they managed themselves during the exam period. Many are off to start colleges courses and apprenticeships in a range of subjects in September, and we wish them all the very best for the future. Thank you to you, the parents and carers, for supporting the students this term.

As usual, lots of great things have been happening across the service, both inside and outside the classroom, with lots of centres taking advantage of the good weather to provide some additional enrichment opportunities for young people.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and remind all our students to stay safe over the holiday.

An ex student kindly donated some money to Hookagate Centre to thank them for all the support he had received during his time at TMBSS. This was to buy new books for the centre. After some research and discussion of what people were interested in, a group of students headed into Shrewsbury on a book buying mission. They were able to buy a number of books from their list and then have ordered the rest to arrive in centre after the holidays. Everyone is looking forward to some reading for pleasure.



Outreach 'Shout Outs'

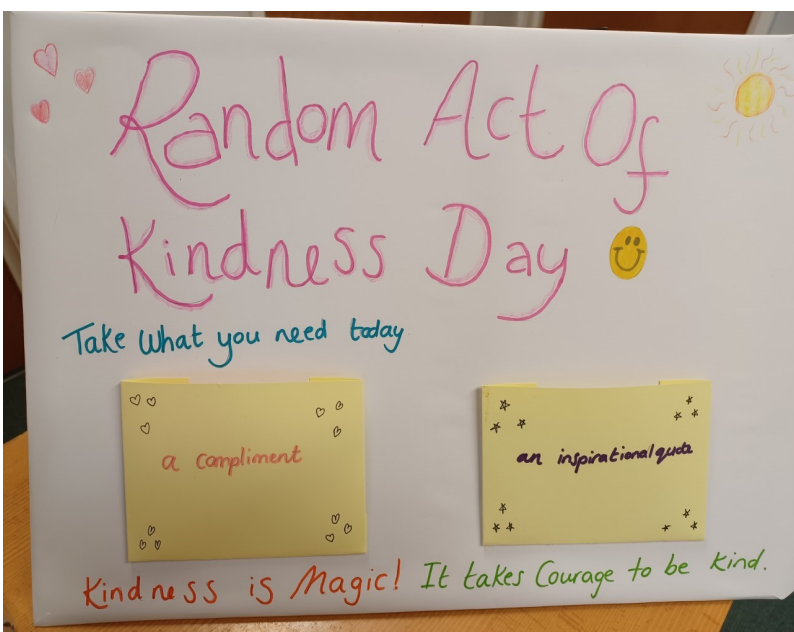
Some of our young people have challenges that mean they are not able to attend a centre. These students are supported by our fabulous team of Outreach Teachers and Learning Mentors.

Here are some of their successes this term:

- ◇ One student spoke directly to their tutor for the first time after 18 months of trying! Absolutely brilliant!
- ◇ Two students moving on to Bettws Lifehouse soon. Good luck!
- ◇ One student has completed all her mock exams at school. Well done!
- ◇ Two students starting to transfer to Hookagate centre. You'll be brilliant!
- ◇ One student returning to school following their medical treatment. We are so proud of you!

KEY EVENTS THIS TERM

- OCEAN DAY
- SHOE ART
- Y11 LEAVERS
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RANDOM ACT OF KINDNESS DAY

On February 17th, it was Random Act of Kindness Day. In Hookagate Centre, we made a welcome board where students and teachers could choose from an envelope and receive either a compliment or an inspirational quote to give them a boost during the day.

We liked it so much that we have kept it up for anyone to seek a little bit of a lift whenever they need it. Hookagate students have decided that we should do random acts of kindness every day!

Everyday should be Random Act of Kindness Day!

2023 POPULAR CULTURE INSPIRED ART

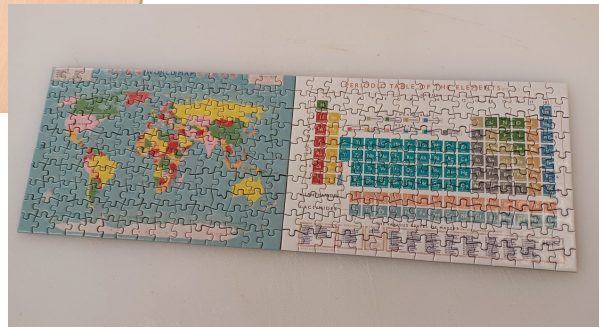


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This half term KS3 have been studying Andy Warhol in their Art lessons. They have recreated pieces of his work using poly-block printing on fabric, designed a Warhol inspired shoe, and this week have created a repeat print based on 2023 popular culture.

Students discussed the Netflix shows 'Wednesday' and 'You', Prime energy drinks, Rihanna's performance at the Superbowl, Harry Styles world tour and Brit Awards. They chose one of these and created a poly-block printing tile based on their choice.





JIGSAW CHALLENGE

Students at Ludlow have always been up for the jigsaw challenge, including making a jigsaw the size of a sphere and completing jigsaws with a 1000 pieces that all look the same! This term, Keehin, impressed staff with the speed in which he completed the 'tiny' jigsaw!

With only 150 pieces, you'd think this would be easy but the tricky part was that each piece was no bigger than your thumbnail! Most of us couldn't even see what was on each piece, let alone work out where it should go. Keehin finished a complete map of the world and the entire scientific table.



First Aid

As part of his Outdoor Education programme, Luke from Hookagate, completed his British Heart Foundation CPR training. He also learnt how to tend wounds with Bev as his patient.

Unfortunately, it was too late for the fella in the back of the picture!



Photography trip to Attingham Park



FIRE STARTER!

Lower Bush Farm near Ludlow offers a warm, fun and friendly option for KS3 pupils who are interested in practical activities away from Centre. The farm has a huge variety of outdoor spaces to explore and learn from. These include large ponds, newly planted woodland and a vegetable garden. They also have animals. Fin from Ludlow centre enjoyed learning some Bushcraft skills.



“If you head towards the walled garden there are lots of possibilities for photos there,” suggested the grey-haired National Trust volunteer.

“Thank you. We’ll give it a go.”

It was just after ten o’clock on a cold Wednesday morning. We’d driven over from Oswestry as part of our Outdoor Education, to visit Attingham Park and take some photos for a display. JA had been entrusted with Mr McEntee’s digital camera and RE had the centre’s compact camera.

Leaving the entrance, we set off towards the walled garden along an avenue of wintry trees. Dog walkers, parents and grandparents with small children strolled past us as we stopped to examine the ice house. An information panel explained that in the days before fridges, wealthy families would store ice, gathered in winter from frozen rivers, in specially constructed ice houses dug deep into the ground and covered with thatched or brick roofs so that they could serve chilled drinks in the heat of the summer months and impress their guests.

Nearby, the stump of a fallen tree had been scattered with bird seed and wild birds: ravens, blue-tits, robins were greedily pecking at them. It was the perfect photo-opportunity.

From there, we sauntered along the woodland path, pausing every so often to take more photos. It was cold standing around and we were glad of our warm coats, although as usual Mr McPhail was in shorts!

Eventually, we arrived at the Walled Garden and JA took some shots of the formal architecture which showcased the perspective of the horizontal and vertical lines. Along the south facing wall, fruit trees had been trained into espaliers, their branches splayed out like fans to increase the amount of sunlight the ripening fruit received, making them more succulent and flavoursome. One of the trees was a cherry and its label revealed its variety: Penny. Photographic evidence was taken for Mrs Brown when we returned to centre.

The cold was now beginning to affect all of us negatively, so we made our way back to the car park. On our way out, the grey-haired volunteer waved goodbye to JA.

BRIDGNORTH BEAUTY SCHOOL ENRICHMENT



*'space to experiment
with creative ideas'*



Bridgnorth Centre has recently invested in the equipment to set up a small Hair and Beauty salon for pupils to use as part of their Enrichment programme.

Some students have shared the expertise gained through attending vocational placements at RENU (Landau) while others have used the space to experiment with creative ideas using staff, friends or the hand and head models provided.

It has proved to be a popular choice and some of the work produced will go towards Unit Awards where pupils can demonstrate the skills they have learned on-site.

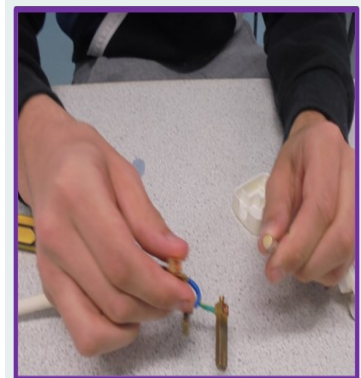
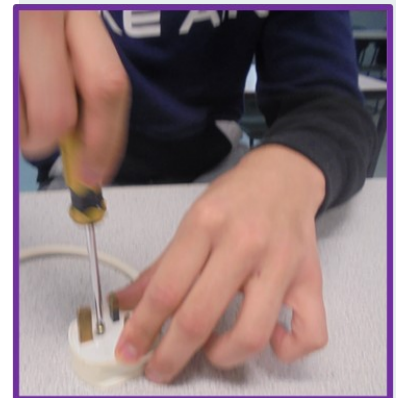
Plugging the Gaps

Many pupils who join TMBSS have not had access to a Science Lab for quite some time, but we believe that practical Science activities are a key element of the learning process. It is also important for pupils to learn how to apply their understanding in the classroom to real life situations.

At Bridgnorth Centre, Year 10 pupil JKJ used his electrical knowledge

and skills to wire a plug and to identify the key components.

Connecting the terminals and fitting the fuse required patience and dexterity as well as keen eyesight, but the electric plug was reassembled correctly ensuring that JKJ successfully completed his stand-alone Unit



Let's Connect

At Hook a Gate, students marked Children's Mental Health week by creating a poster for the centre's school nurse board. They included the theme for this year of, 'Let's Connect', and the organisation logo.

Students explored the what idea of connection meant to them and how this could support their mental health.



The Power of the Pen



Year 10 students at Hookagate have been looking at letter writing skills and how to use persuasive writing techniques. Inspired by the lessons, Sophie decided to see how persuasive she could be. Having enjoyed some chocolate in centre that had been donated by the Food Hub, Sophie wrote to the chocolate company, and using all her persuasive writing skills, asked if they would consider donating some more chocolate to the staff and students at TMBSS.

To her surprise, Sophie received a reply. So impressed by her letter were the company, that they felt compelled to reply. They said,

'We're so pleased to hear that you are enjoying our Knoppers.

We do not give out samples usually, however we would be delighted to send you some product for you and your fellow students and teachers to enjoy.'

Hindered by snow, the delivery eventually arrived. A huge box of Knoppers containing 192 bars and two enormous bags of sweets arrived - Hookagate staff and students are working their way through them... probably more quickly than they should be!

SPRING HAS ARRIVED AT TMBSS



This term TMBSS secondary pupils have been working on their interpretation of Damien Hirst's 'Blossoms.'

All pupils were given the image of Damien Hirst's piece "Blossoms" as a stimulus to create their own version.

They could select whichever media they wished, but if they were able to incorporate mixed media and some further research they would earn an AQA unit Award level 1. 5 students achieved this. Well done all! The foyer at Sundorne looks blooming marvellous!

*Bloomin'
Marvellous!*

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Bridgnorth held a Chinese New Year themed day including zodiac animal portraits for AQA unit Awards and chinese fans in art, chinese lanterns in science, cooking a chicken chow mein and spring rolls in food tech and learning Chinese multiplication.



*Thank you and
Goodbye!*

TMBSS has been lucky enough to have the lovely Mr Newell working with us for a 'really long time'. Mr Newell is loved by staff and students for his calm and friendly manner, his quiet support, and his extensive knowledge and expertise in education. Mr Newell has been in the game for so long that he even taught one member of staff who's is getting on herself! Mr Newell will be greatly missed and we wish him a wonderful retirement.



CONTACT NUMBERS

**Children's Services
First Point of Contact**
0345 678 9021

**We Are With You –
Young people's sub-
stance misuse team**
01743 294700

**NSPCC – 0800 800
5000**

**Bee U – 0 – 25 Mental
Health Support - 0300
124 0093**

Childline – 0800 1111



*If brought into centre,
mobile phones must be
handed in at
reception.*

Bridgnorth Centre: 01746
764733

Hook A Gate Centre: 01743
367369

Ludlow Centre: 01584 876129

Oswestry Centre: 01691 653134

Sundorne Centre: 01743
368190



SAFEGUARDING AT TMBSS

At TMBSS we believe that it is always unacceptable for a child or young person to experience abuse of any kind and recognise that safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people is everyone's responsibility

The Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead for TMBSS is James Pearson and he can be contacted by telephone on 01743 368189 or via e-mail pearson.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk. All other provisions have designated safeguarding leads and as parents/carers you will be given a leaflet on who they are and how to contact them on the initial home visit.

The TMBSS CP Policy is available for all parents/carers to view on the website. It is updated annually. You will also find links to all other service policies, including E-Safety, Child on Child Abuse, and Preventing Extremism

This term we continue to families navigating the current financial situation. We have provided families with information on foodbanks and we are able to signpost for other financial support services. If you feel that you would benefit from some additional support then please contact Emma Spelman on spelman.e@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk, or Ruth Hatton on hatton.r@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk

Just a reminder that Jodie Prophet is our Family Support Worker and is available to provide support. She can be contacted on prophet.j@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk or you can contact your centre manager.

Child Exploitation remains high profile within Shropshire. We will continue to share updates and resources with parents and carers and will continue to support any vulnerable students that are victims of exploitation. If you require any further information on this subject, please contact Emma Spelman on spelman.e@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk

This term, we have sent a number of useful resources to parents. This has included information on the rise in popularity of social media personality Andrew Tate and online safety tips. If you require the information or re-sending, please can you email spelman.e@tmbss-shropshire.org.uk

All staff have received training on managing harmful sexualised behaviours within schools. This has equipped all staff with additional knowledge and skills to be able to manage any situations that may arise.

End of term:

Thursday 30th March 2023

PD Day:

31st March 2023



Return to school:

Monday 17th April 2023

Bank Holidays:

Monday 1st May **and** Monday 8th May 2023

Half term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June 2023

