



Paces School for Conductive Education. Spring Term 2 2024

Careers and Preparation for Adulthood:

This year I have taken on the role of Careers Leader; this means I will be responsible for coordinating careers education for all our pupils. Careers education is about much more than information about future destinations or thinking about potential jobs: it's about helping students develop the skills and attitudes that will enable them to take control of their adult lives and make good choices - so they can be happy with how they spend their time and feel able to contribute to their communities.

To help us achieve this our careers curriculum will focus on these six key areas from the Careers Development Institute Framework:



We have been busy gathering careers information, making useful contacts and developing our careers-related learning. We have compiled a list of potential destinations, such as colleges and apprenticeship providers, and we have some resources available from the office if you would like to find out more. There is a new careers notice board opposite Ruth and Lizzie's office with some key information and news of upcoming events. For example, Portland College are holding a virtual open day event on Wednesday 24th April <https://www.portland.ac.uk/event/virtual-open-day-april/> There is a page about Careers and Preparing for Adulthood under the curriculum tab on the website. This will soon have a host of links and information to explore, if you would like to investigate the possibilities for life beyond Paces with your children.

As well as embedding careers-related learning within PSHE lessons and making links to jobs across the curriculum, we are very excited to be holding our first Paces Careers Week from June 21st 2024. We will be inviting employers and Further Education providers in to speak to students and have planned a trip to a careers fair. It should be an inspiring week with lots of opportunities to get a taste of work and see the host of options available for this future. Please do get in touch if you would like more information.

Kathy Fagg, Paces School Careers Lead.

Danceathon!

A group of parents are organising a 24-hour danceathon to raise money for school, more specifically our outdoor areas which will include a sensory garden, raised planters, an outdoor classroom and improving our existing play area.

On **Friday 24th May at 12.00pm** the challenge will start and it will end on **Saturday 25th May at 12.00pm**.

We will be looking for interested parents, family members and friends to sign up to a slot throughout that 24-hour period, help us raise money and most importantly have fun!

New staff and pupils:

This half term we have bid a fond farewell to Vicky Whitmore who has left us for a change of job, closer to home. We wish Vicky well in everything she does.

We have welcomed Emma into the Hardwick Class as a new Conductor/Assistant.

After the Easter holidays we will be welcoming Fleur who will be working in the Windsor Class. In addition, we have also welcome Jade who has joined our cleaning team.

We look forward to welcoming Louie as a new pupil who will join the Hardwick class.



Durham Class:

Durham Class have had another fun term. Muck, Mess and Mixtures has proved an extremely popular topic for lots of reasons.

We finished reading 'George's Marvellous Medicine'. We loved reading this book and wrote acrostic poems based around Grandma. We created our own yoghurts and then wrote recipes explaining how to make them.

We had lots of fun in Science, learning about melting. We melted different foods in the microwave and then made rice krispie cakes by melting chocolate and marshmallows. We learnt about freezing, and made our own ice cream. We decided "which stuff was stickier?" and investigated "which soap product makes the most bubbles?" – Jam and Washing Up Liquid!

We went bowling and ate out at Frankie and Benny's to celebrate the end of term. We were so polite and kind whilst we were out, that Ruth gave us all the headteacher's award in assembly. We were very proud!

Have an amazing Easter and see you all for our summer term!



Warwick Class:

As we approach the end of another term in Warwick class, it's time to reflect on the wonderful journey we've embarked upon together. This term has been nothing short of magical, filled with enchanting adventures, playful learning, and countless moments of growth and discovery within our topic "Once Upon a Time".

We have continued our learning through our class story 'Cinderella', which has linked into everything we have done across each school day.

We have built castles with blocks, became rulers of our kingdom for the day, created fairy tale scenes in our tuff tray and engaged in imaginative play by re-creating the story 'Cinderella', with a focus on how each character would feel. From counting mice to sorting enchanted objects by size, Warwick have been busy exploring mathematical concepts in the most enchanting ways.

We have also been busy celebrating international women's day, Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day, World Book day, Conductive Education Awareness week, Red Nose Day, World Down Syndrome Day and Easter. We've baked, made posters, dressed up and shown off our crafting skills during these celebrations.



School Council:

So far this year, Student Council has spent time discussing what makes a school eco-friendly.

We have talked about what the school already does - turning off lights, turning off plugs, recycling, and have thought about ways we can become even more eco-friendly! We have shared these ideas with our friends in class. We also have bought recycling bins for each of the classrooms and are encouraging everyone in school to put their rubbish in the right bins!

We will now start thinking forward to the end of the year. As the summer term approaches, we would like to organise another music festival, as everyone had so much fun last year!

To find out more about our school council please visit the school council tab on the website.

World Book Day:



One of our favourite days in the school calendar did not disappoint this year again! Whole class teams embraced dressing up as characters from books with a special mention to the Hardwick Funnybones, Warwick as the cast from Cinderella and Edinburgh as the characters from Alice in Wonderland. Pupils enjoyed lots of Literacy based activities throughout the day.

Balmoral Class:

The pupils in Balmoral have been exploring the digestive system in Science lessons as part of our topic: The Human Body. Through hands-on activities: making a physical digestive system out of soft play and experimenting the safest way to eat biscuits. The pupils have engaged in discussions and deepened their understanding of how our bodies function, laying the foundation for a lifelong appreciation of health and well-being. They have also learned about the importance of medicine in our life and how it evolved in history through time.

Our journey into the world of medicine, sparked by Roald Dahl's "George's Marvellous Medicine," has been equally enriching. The whole class have enjoyed our class book and have been giving character description and sharing ideas about the plot. The pupils have, inspired by the book, looked at advertisements and ways that persuasive writing is used. They have written adverts for their own medicines which can do amazing things: make you score a goal, make your wishes come true or even give you the best dreams!

In Computing lessons, the pupils have been creating PowerPoint presentations, firstly to create an "All About Me" presentation, then finding a book in the library to create a Multimedia story. They have been exploring how to use pictures, photos, videos and animations to enhance their stories and bring them to life.

In Maths the pupils focused on measurements. Through practical activities and real-world applications, the pupils have been measuring all things big and small using rulers for centimetres & millimetres and a trundle wheel to measure in metres.



Wentworth Class:

In our English Literature classes, we embarked on a captivating journey into the world of Shakespearean tragedy with "Romeo and Juliet." Through in-depth analysis, lively discussions, and immersive activities, students delved into the timeless tale of love, conflict, and fate. Exploring the complexities of character motivations, societal norms, and the power of language, students honed their critical thinking skills and gained a deeper appreciation for Shakespeare's enduring masterpiece.

In our ICT sessions, students unleashed their creativity by crafting intricate branching stories. Using digital tools and their boundless imaginations, they embarked on interactive storytelling adventures, where choices led to diverse outcomes. From thrilling adventures to heartwarming tales, students honed their narrative skills while mastering the art of digital storytelling, paving the way for future innovation and creativity.

In our Religious Education curriculum, students embarked on a fascinating exploration of Islam. Through engaging discussions, research projects, and respectful dialogue, they gained insight into Islam's beliefs, practices, and cultural significance. By fostering understanding and empathy, students embraced the diversity of religious traditions, nurturing a culture of inclusivity and mutual respect within our school community.

In our history classes, we celebrated the enduring legacy of William Shakespeare. Through the lens of history, students explored the life, times, and cultural impact of the iconic playwright. From Elizabethan England to the global stage, students examined Shakespeare's influence on literature, theatre, and the arts, discovering connections between the past and present while deepening their understanding of cultural heritage.



Windsor Class:



Windsor Class have really engaged with Shakespeare's Macbeth – utilising rhyme to create spells inspired by the witches' verse and writing diaries which show their understanding of the characters. Students' vocabulary has been very impressive and they have worked hard on recalling characters' names and the sequence of events for the WJEC Exploring Shakespeare unit. Staff and students have entered whole heartedly into some very dramatic performances of key scenes.

Students have been particularly enthusiastic about our work in science; we have enjoyed lots of rather messy practical work this half term as we have learned about solutions and homogeneous and heterogeneous mixtures and have investigated how to separate mixtures through processes such as sieving, filtering and evaporation. I have been really impressed with students' engagement and their recall of scientific vocabulary.

As usual, students have worked incredibly hard not only in lessons and the task series but also in being increasingly independent throughout the daily routine – taking coats off or transferring actively from one location to the next. It has been a privilege to see the progress students have made and the smiles of pride at challenges achieved. We are looking forward to the Summer Term but will be very sorry to see Matty leave us to join a school closer to home.

Hardwick Class:

In Maths we have been hard at work exploring the world of pictograms. Through engaging activities, we've delved into what we like and dislike, exploring toys, animals, and food preferences and thought about how we can present this.

In the world of science, we have been exploring natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and volcanoes to create our very own large-scale volcano and conducting experiments to make it erupt. Our budding scientists have been fully immersed in hands-on learning experiences. We've also had the opportunity to explore the wonders of the animal kingdom, discovering the relationships between animals and their babies. Our classroom was transformed into a bustling veterinary clinic, complete with learning stations that sparked curiosity and wonder.

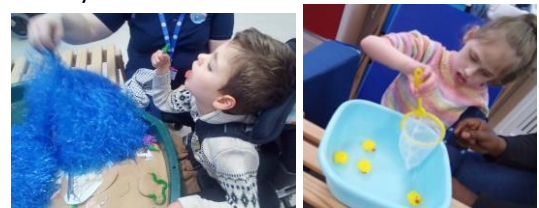


Art therapy sessions with Jenya have provided our children with a calming space to express their feelings and emotions through creative outlets. These sessions have not only nurture artistic talents but also fostered a sense of self-awareness and emotional well-being. We have also continued to enjoy our music therapy sessions.

Chatsworth:

We have had another brilliant and busy half term here in Chatsworth. We have continued having lots of fun with our 'Water Adventures' topic – this time, we have focused on Pirates, Sirens and Selkies, and all about The Water Cycle. In Maths, we have been getting familiar with prepositions, using words like 'in' and 'on', and developing our curiosity by searching for hidden objects within the space. We even used treasure maps to find the pirates' buried treasure in the classroom! Our Science and Humanities sessions have gone hand-in-hand, as we have been learning about how water in different parts of the world may be hot or cold and have then investigated this ourselves. We particularly enjoyed handling ice, as well as using a switch-operated kettle and observing the steam from the boiling water. As always, we have experienced a number of sensory stories and have now started to use these as a model for developing our own early writing skills in the area of composition. A key highlight of the half term was World Book Day, in which we had a wonderful time dressing up as pirates and exploring the sensory story, 'Millie Mermaid and the Skeleton Crew'. Finally, we had the best day on our visit to Magna – our favourite part was the water play and the wind machine!

The pupils in Chatsworth continue to make us proud every day. We hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday!



Conductive Education Awareness Week:

This half term we have celebrated CE awareness week with pupils reflecting on what they have been proud of and what CE means to them. We also hosted a parent coffee morning to develop and raise awareness of CE in school and how we use this approach to develop each of our pupils holistically. We ended the week with 7 members of our team visiting Ingfield Manor School for the annual PCA Conference where our very own Lizzie Bell presented a lecture on Metacognition.



Edinburgh Class:

In our English lessons, students explored the digestive system thoroughly. They learned about the journey of food in our bodies and created detailed fact files, becoming experts in the field. They also improved their persuasive writing skills by crafting a poster about healthy food. We enjoyed humorous yet educational stories like 'The Story of the Little Mole who knew it was none of his business'. We have also begun reading the book 'The Demon Dentist' by David Walliams, and we can't wait to find out what happens next term!

In maths we have learnt about money. We have explored coins and their value. We had the opportunity to visit our local Lidl to see what we could buy and appreciate the different cost of a range of foods. The children all loved our trip to the supermarket, finding food from their shopping list, talking to the cashier and purchasing items themselves using coins and waiting for their receipts and change.

In our class, we had lots of fun being creative! We made music, art, and cool designs. Students wrote and sang funny songs about the digestive system, making learning fun with music and jokes. They also got to use their artistic talents to make models of the digestive system using different materials. And to top it off, we made snack packs to remind us to eat healthily, adding a touch of creativity to our snacks.



Early Reading:

Since September, we have had a particular focus on how early reading is taught at Paces. Amongst other changes, we are looking to adopt a new scheme to improve our delivery of phonics throughout the school. We will have more updates on this soon, including training for parents on how to support your child with their reading at home- whatever their age or stage. Watch this space!

School Grants & Fundraising Update:

In February, we were awarded £82,365 from Children in Need to continue our Outreach Programme, this money will be used to ensure we can run a two day a week service for the next three years.

In January we received the news that the National Lotteries had awarded Paces £90,000, again over three years. This money will be used to cover some of our family services work, parts of the Outreach Programme and to help strengthen the charity.

We have also received a grant from Ecclesfield Parish Council towards the costs of Therapy Chairs and have recently received £2,500 towards the costs of our Speech and Language Therapy Programme.

Through our corporate partnerships work the Fundraising Team have also secured essential match funding for the Outreach Programme.

If you fancy a challenge and would like to get involved in any of our fundraising events please see our website <https://www.pacessheffield.org.uk/events>.

Educational Visits:

This half term we have had a number of educational visits that have supported our topic-based learning and helped develop our social skills. The Hardwick class teams have been to Cannon Hall Farm, the Edinburgh class have been to Eureka, Balmoral class have been to the Thackrey Museum of medicine in Leeds, the Chatsworth class have been to Magna, the Wentworth class have been to Hesley Wood to enjoy some teambuilding activities, the Windsor class went to the Institute of Sport for an inclusive sports activity afternoon and the Durham class have been bowling and out for lunch. Visits for the remaining class groups are planned for the summer term.



Future dates for your diary:

Start of Summer Term:	Mon 15 th April
May Day holiday:	Mon 6 th May
Multicultural Week:	13-17 th May
Break up for half term:	Fri 24 th May
Staff training day:	Mon 3 rd June
Pupils return to school:	Tues 4 th June
Growing up days (RSE)	10 th /11 th June
Careers week:	24 th -28 th June
Parents' Evening:	2/3 rd July
Sports Days:	10/11 th July
Music Festival:	Mon 22 nd July
Last day of summer term:	Tues 23 rd July

The provisional dates for our 3-day summer school this year are Wednesday 24th- Fri 26th July. The running of this is dependent both on funding and staffing. A letter will be sent home after the Easter holidays.

Letters will also be sent out nearer the time regarding parents evening, sports day and other events with additional information.

Friday Clubs:

The first half term of our Friday Clubs has been a huge success. Pupils have had the opportunity to participate in cooking, dance, choir, French and drama. A huge well done to all the pupils for embracing these different opportunities and thank you for those staff who have led one of the clubs.

Our end of term assembly celebrated the achievements of these clubs with performances from the drama, choice and dance clubs. Pupils attending French also showcased their new love of the language with some French phrases.

