

Appleton Academy

Issue 4



Featuring:

Our BBC News debut

Meet our new

Executive Headteacher

Cadets launch

Sports celebrations

Duke of Edinburgh

update

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.



Welcome

Welcome to our fourth newsletter of the year! This is a bumper edition as it covers the second half of spring term and the first half of the summer term.

We have had so many exciting things happening for our students from visitors to school, visits out, fabulous creative arts opportunities, careers events and even more and I know that the content in here is only scratching the surface of what we have accomplished.

This is testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff who put in an incredible amount of hard work to organise these events.

In this news letter I am delighted to introduce Rachel Cruise, our new Executive Headteacher, who is working alongside Helen Jones who sadly retires at the end of the year.

If you have things you would like to see featured in the newsletter, please let us know.

Mrs Garlick
Head of Secondary



Born in Bradford and the IRL trial

Appleton Academy Supporting Groundbreaking Social Media Research



Appleton Academy is proud to be part of an exciting and pioneering research project taking place here in Bradford. This study will be the world's first large-scale trial exploring how reducing social media use may impact young people's wellbeing. Students in Y8, y9 and Y10 agreed to sign up to the study.

Research from the Born in Bradford: Age of Wonder study shows that young people, including those as young as 13, currently spend around three hours a day on social media apps such as TikTok and Snapchat. While these platforms can help young people stay connected, there is growing interest in understanding how they may also affect factors such as anxiety, sleep, and overall wellbeing.

The new study, known as the "IRL Trial" (In Real Life), will involve around 4,000 students aged 12–15 across Bradford. Participating students will either use a specially designed app to limit time spent on social media each day, or continue using their devices as normal.

The trial will run for six weeks and will explore how reducing social media time may influence important areas such as mental health and anxiety, sleep quality, friendships and family time, and experiences of bullying. This innovative research aims to better understand whether small changes in daily habits can support young people in focusing more on real-life relationships, hobbies and wellbeing.

The IRL Trial is funded by The Wellcome Trust and delivered in partnership with leading organisations including the Bradford Institute for Health Research, the University of Cambridge, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

We are delighted that Appleton Academy is playing a role in such important work and will continue to keep families updated as the project develops. Our students who took part in the filming made us very proud with their valuable thoughts and contributions to the news articles that were played on BBC look North and BBC national news.



Born in Bradford and the SMART trial

Appleton Academy Supporting Groundbreaking Social Media Research!



Aisha, 14, hopes the trial will help her to spend more time outdoors





Appleton Academy Combined Cadet Force

Appleton Academy is proud to say that we have officially launched our cadet's programme. Our programme is run by a dedicated team of staff led by David Bell and Ronan Murphy.

Wednesday 22nd April saw Appleton Academy Combined Cadet Force parade for the first time. After a process of selection and a period of staff training, the first parade night finally came round.

Twenty-one new cadets from Year 8, supported by three cadets representing local ACF and RAFAC units paraded for the first time. The parade was led by Contingent Commander, Flt Lt Bell, who brings 20 years of CFAV experience as RAFAC, with support from Sgts Murphy and Sroka, both having previous military experience, and PI Williams. Also supporting were SSI Corcoran and CTT Sgt Hehir whose experience and expertise were invaluable during the set-up process and on-going support will be invaluable at making the CCF a success.

The cadets completed a carousel of activities. These included a leadership task, badges of rank, introduction to cooking in the field and receiving their initial uniform issue. One of the cadets asked where the two hours had gone!

As an Army contingent attached to the Royal Signals, we are looking forward to support from our local Signals units and gaining experience and learning about some of the unique skills and trades they offer.

Flt Lt Bell said, "It has been a long road. Thanks to the support of our Leadership team, RFCA, CTT and the school staff involved, we have had our first parade night and look forward to many more. We have been given a unique opportunity to deliver the cadet experience, which aligns so closely with our school values of Inspire, Nurture and Develop and the team looks forward to growing on our initial success."

Looking to the future, the staff team are preparing a wide range of activities over the coming term and arranging an open evening for the next intake of Y7 pupils going into Y8 in September.

If any parent wishes to become a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer and be part of the CCF, please email ccf@appletonacademy.co.uk and one of our staff will contact you.



West Yorkshire Maths Hub Year 10 Study Day 1

On Tuesday 21st April 2026 a small group of Y10 students had the opportunity to take part in a maths study day organised by West Yorkshire Maths Hub in collaboration with Mathematics in Education and Industry (MEI) at the University of Bradford. The aim of the day was to deepen pupil understanding of specific maths areas, provide students with the opportunity to foster their interest in maths education beyond GCSE and experience a higher education environment.



Students spent the morning in two workshops, the first on percentages and the second on area and circumference of arcs and sectors, in which they revisited prior learning to ensure they understood the content and then had the opportunity to apply this to more complex problems and exam style questions.

After lunch, students were split into smaller groups to participate in the team challenge competition against the 3 other schools in attendance. Students were first given scenarios in which they had to make reasonable estimates to answer the problems, justifying any decisions they had made. The second half of the team challenge involved pupils answering as many puzzle style questions as possible in the given time. I am delighted to say that all three teams placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd with the first-place team receiving a rubicks cube as their prize.

Students are looking forward to participating in the remaining three study days as they move into year 11.



Appleton Academy presents 'The Mauge' at Kirklees College Battle of the School Bands 2026

Appleton Academy's talented school band, *The Mauge*, recently took to the stage at the prestigious Kirklees Battle of the School Bands competition, earning a place in the final after being successfully shortlisted from a strong field of schools across the region.

The final, held on 30th April at Kirklees College, showcased some of the best young musical talent from across West Yorkshire, with schools including Spen Valley High School, Colne Valley High School, Calder High School, Saddleworth School and Mirfield Free Grammar all competing for the title.

Representing Appleton Academy with confidence, professionalism and outstanding musicianship, *The Mauge* delivered an energetic and memorable performance that impressed both the audience and judging panel.

Staff and teachers from Kirklees College praised the students highly for the quality of their performance, their preparation and the enthusiasm they brought to the competition. The positive feedback received was a fantastic reflection of the hard work and commitment the students have shown during rehearsals and performances throughout the year.

Taking part in such a high-profile competition provided an incredible opportunity for the students to perform in a professional environment, gain valuable live performance experience and celebrate their passion for music alongside other talented young musicians from across the region.



Everyone at Appleton Academy is extremely proud of *The Mauge* (Band members: Alice Pruchnik, Pagan Peddar, William Stacey, Ben Howard, Neel Noursai) and their achievements. Reaching the final of the Kirklees Battle of the School Bands is a significant accomplishment and highlights the growing strength of music and performing arts within the academy.

Congratulations to all members of *The Mauge* for representing the school so brilliantly, we look forward to seeing what comes next for this talented group of musicians.

Northern Ballet – Gentleman Jack

Students from Years 8 and 9 at Appleton Academy have been taking part in an exciting and inspiring partnership with Northern Ballet as part of the *Gentleman Jack* education programme.

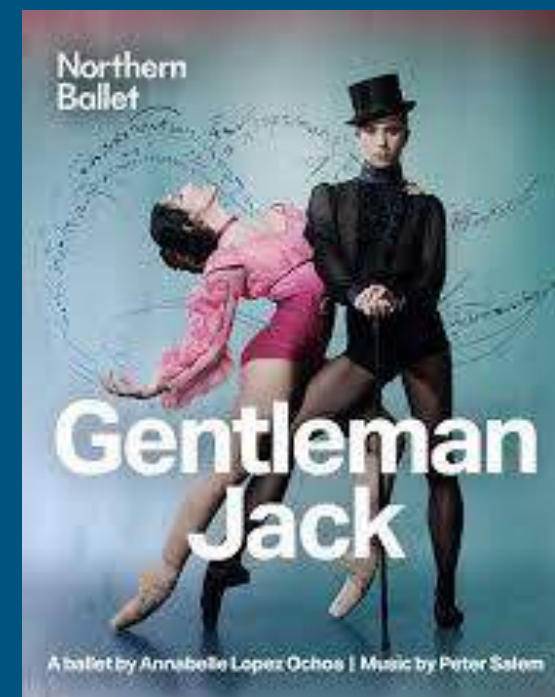
The project gave students a unique opportunity to work alongside professional artists and performers, exploring dance, drama and storytelling inspired by the life and legacy of Anne Lister. Through a series of workshops led by industry professionals, students developed their confidence, creativity and performance skills while gaining valuable insight into the world of professional performing arts.

As part of the programme, students also attended a live performance at Leeds Grand Theatre, where they watched Northern Ballet perform *Gentleman Jack*. Experiencing the production in a professional theatre setting was a real highlight for many students, giving them the opportunity to see the choreography, storytelling, live music and stage production come together at the highest level.

Staff involved in the programme praised the students for their enthusiasm, maturity and willingness to engage fully with the opportunities provided. Many students demonstrated significant growth in confidence and performance ability over the course of the project, with several expressing a new interest in pursuing performing arts in the future.

The programme has been a fantastic example of how arts education can inspire young people, broaden aspirations and provide meaningful cultural experiences beyond the classroom. Opportunities such as these continue to strengthen the performing arts provision at Appleton Academy and highlight the importance of partnerships with leading arts organisations.

Everyone at the academy is incredibly proud of the students who took part and grateful to Northern Ballet for providing such a memorable and enriching experience.



Dog Mentor - Eddie

Eddie is a much-loved dog mentor who plays an important role in supporting wellbeing across the Academy. A dog mentor provides calm emotional support in school, helping pupils regulate their emotions, reduce anxiety and re-engage with learning.

Eddie's calm and friendly nature helps students feel supported, confident and happy throughout the school day. Eddie starts each morning with his 8:30 meet and greet at the school gates, where many students enjoy stopping to say hello and give him a stroke before lessons begin.

He then likes to visit staff in the Academy offices, where he is always warmly welcomed. At breaktime, Eddie enjoys spending time in the dining hall, where Miss Hattie always makes sure he gets a sneaky sausage treat.

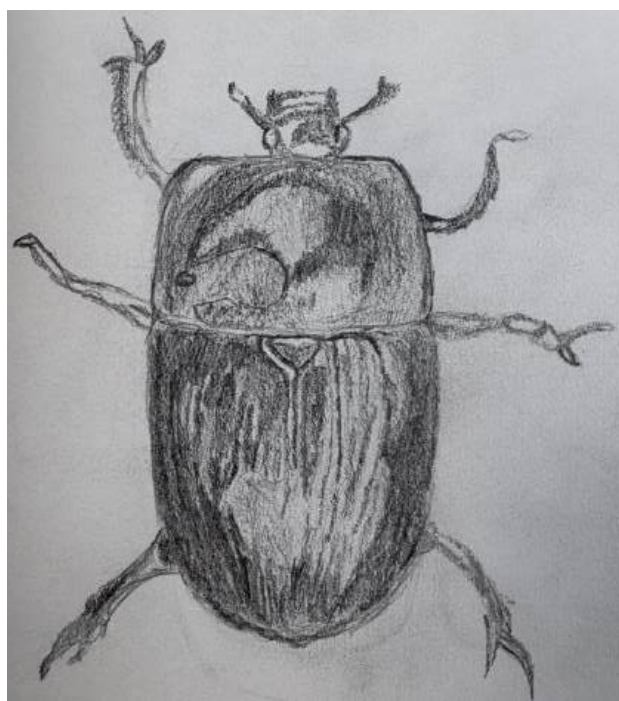
During the day, Eddie visits lessons including Maths and Art, as well as checking in on some of his favourite students around the Academy. No visit would be complete without spending time in the Compass Resource Provision and Appleton's Hub, home to the Learning Support team, where Eddie's calm presence is always appreciated by both students and staff.



Year 7 Art-Insects



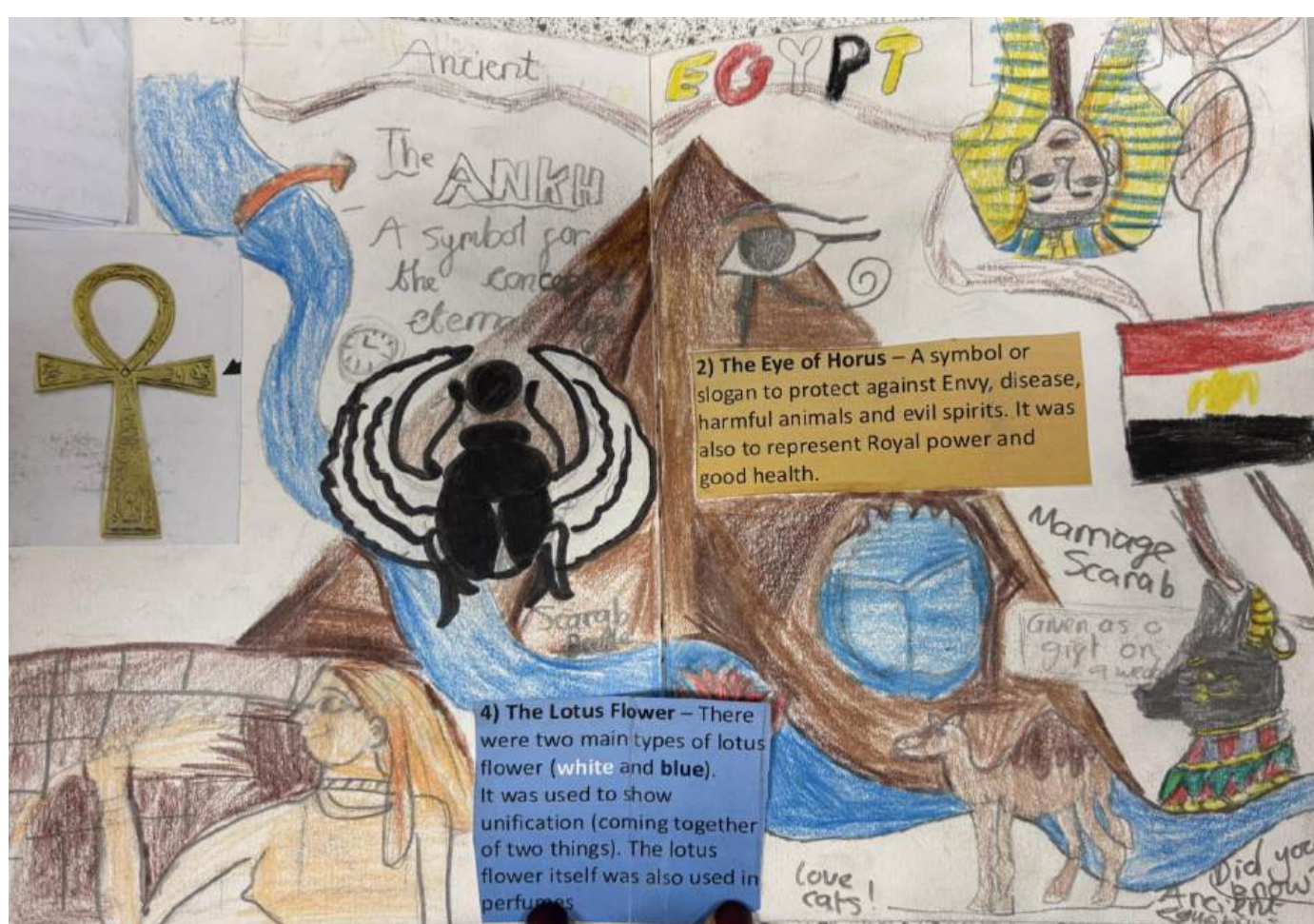
Ndipnu



David G



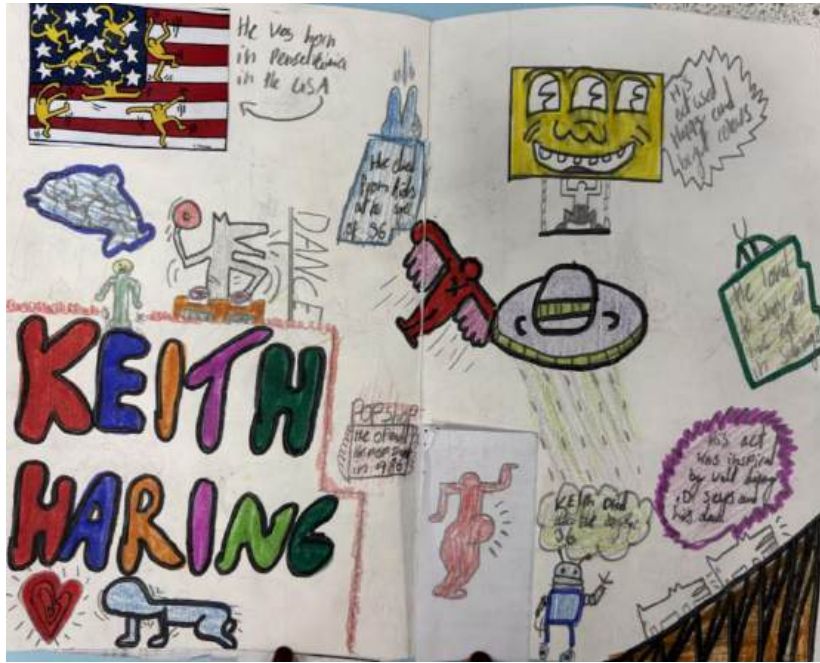
David G



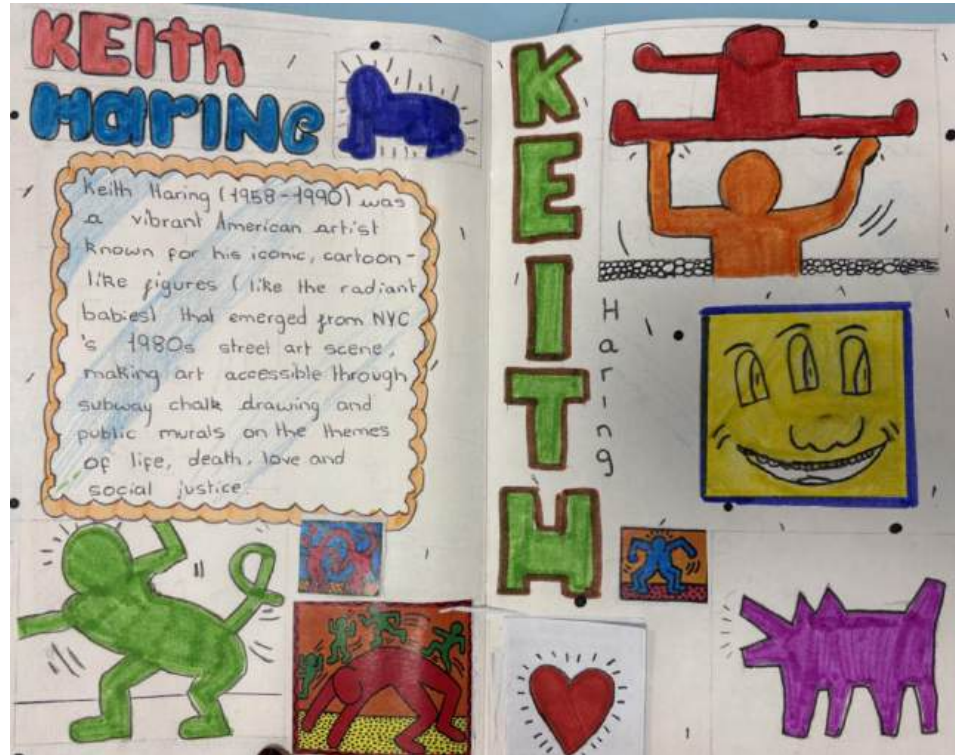
Hannah O

Year 7's deep-dive into Ancient Egypt started as an exploration of beetles, and how to accurately draw them. They have been designing their beetles and are now creating them out of clay

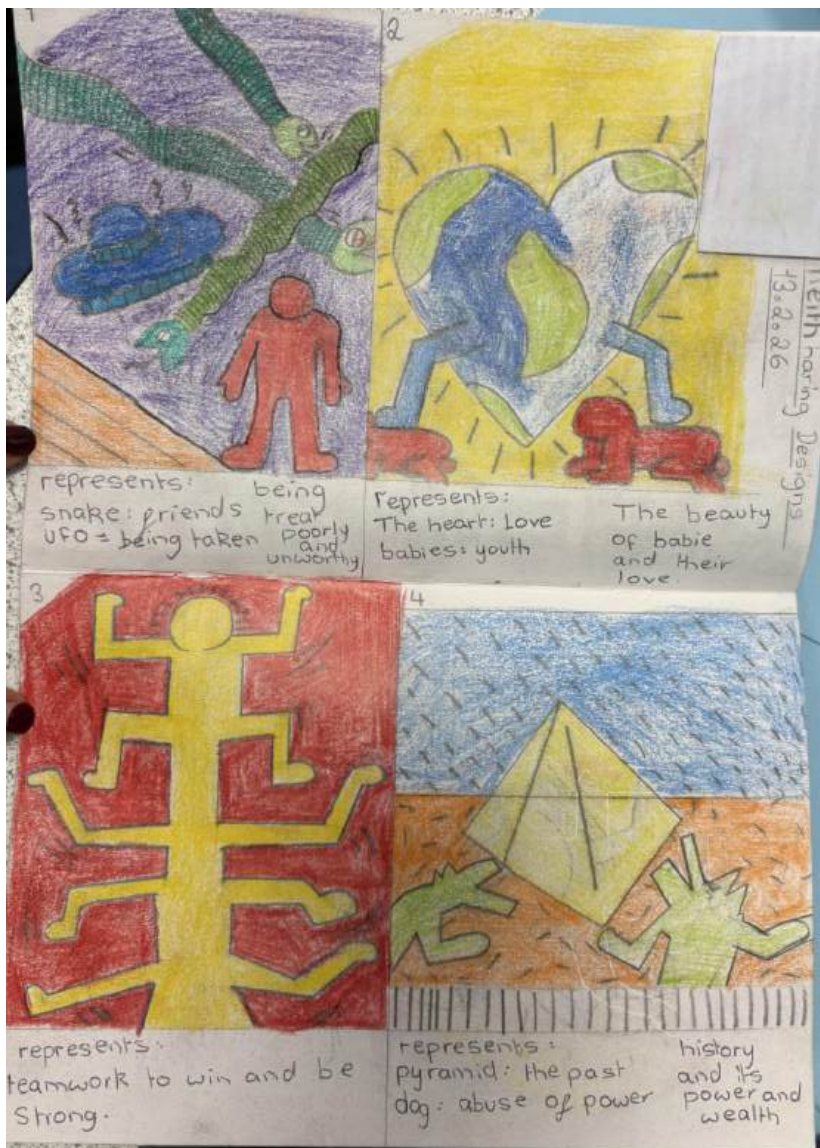
Year 8 Art



Aleks K



Taylor C

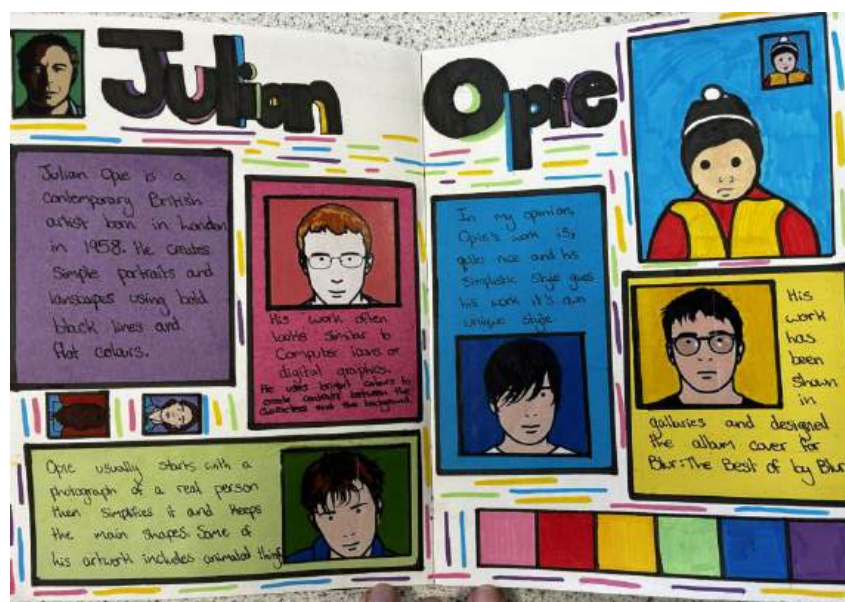


Dalton G



Year 8 students have been looking at both realistic and abstract depictions of figures, with research into Keith Haring aiding the students in creating their own Haring tile designs!

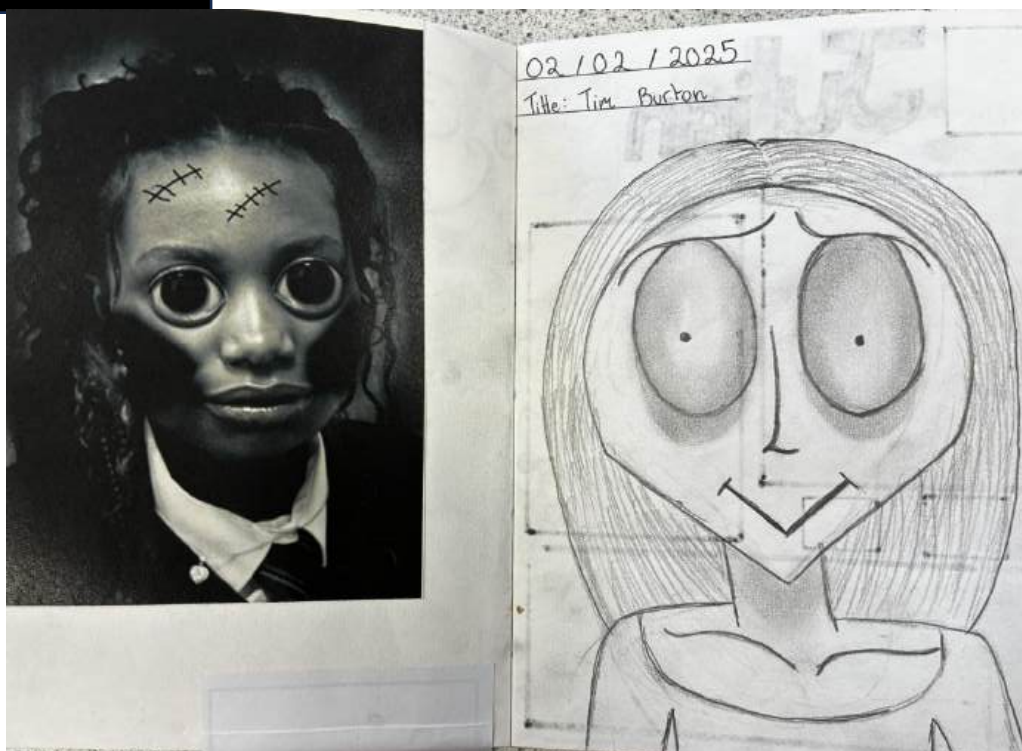
Year 9 Art



Waniya H



Berenice



Tegan R



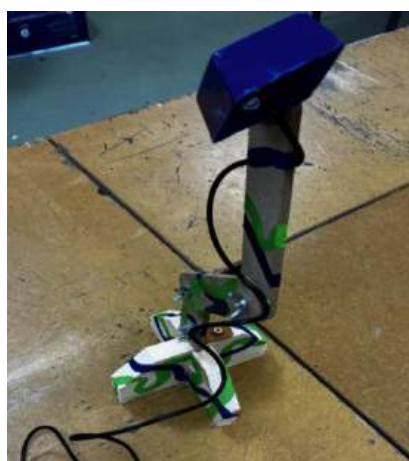
Stefania



Maicey

Year 9 have been exploring the different methods of creating portraiture, with both Photoshop and varied paints being used to make Tim Burton inspired characters.

Design & Technology



This is showcasing a variety of work from across KS3 and KS4 design and technology

Go Present Programme

Year 9 Go Presents Programme: Exploring Voice, Identity and Aspirations.

We were pleased to offer a targeted enrichment programme for selected Year 9 students. This initiative was designed for students from Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic backgrounds who demonstrated strong potential for higher education (HE).

Delivered in partnership with GHWY Outreach Officers, the programme consisted of three engaging and interactive sessions. Through creative activities and discussion, students explored their personal experiences of education, reflected on their future aspirations, and developed a stronger sense of belonging within education.

A key focus of the programme was helping students to discover and express their own “voice.” Participants built confidence in articulating who they are, recognised and celebrated their individual strengths, and gained greater familiarity with higher education pathways. The sessions also introduced students to communication techniques, including podcasting, as a way of sharing ideas and experiences.

Programme highlights included:

- Three interactive workshops led by Outreach Officers
- Opportunities for self-reflection and creative expression
- Development of communication and teamwork skills
- Exploration of personal identity, strengths and aspirations
- Increased awareness of higher education opportunities

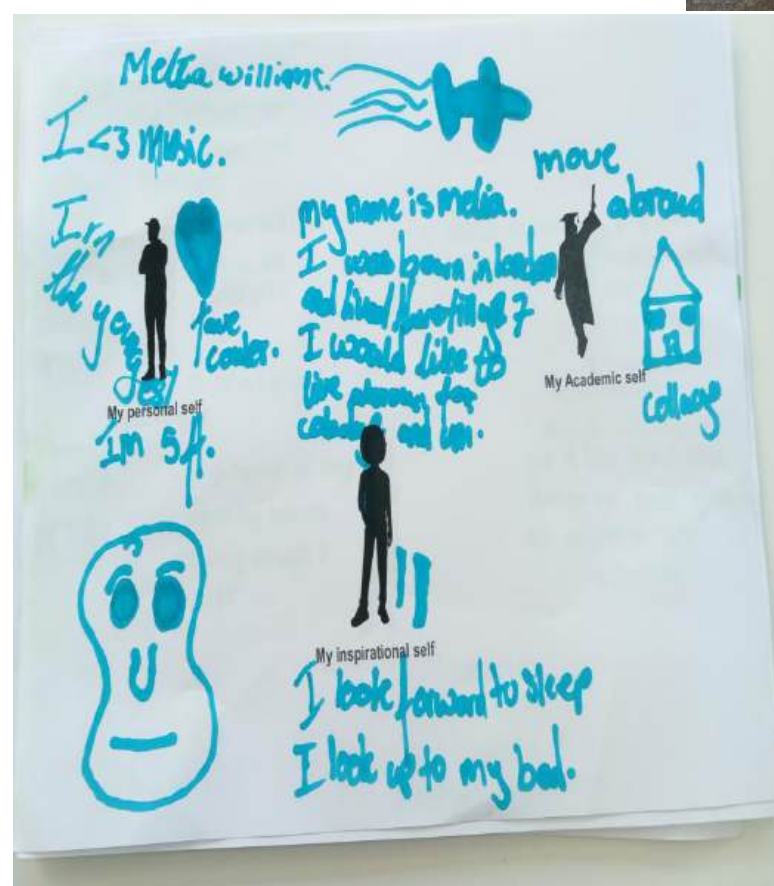
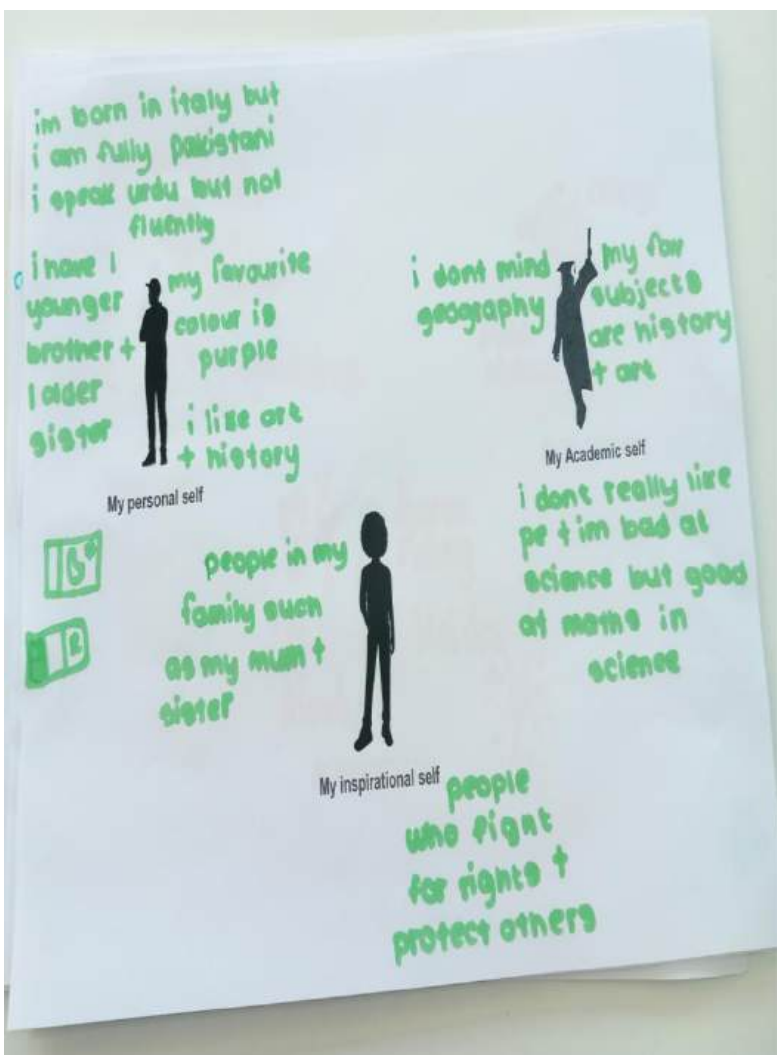
Eligibility:

- Year 9 students
 - From a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background
 - Predicted to achieve Grade 4 or above in GCSE English and Maths
- Each cohort included up to 15 students, ensuring a supportive and collaborative environment.

This programme provided a valuable opportunity for students to grow in confidence, develop their voice, and begin thinking more deeply about their future pathways.

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Go Presents Programme by Go Higher West Yorkshire



Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

Think and Go Higher

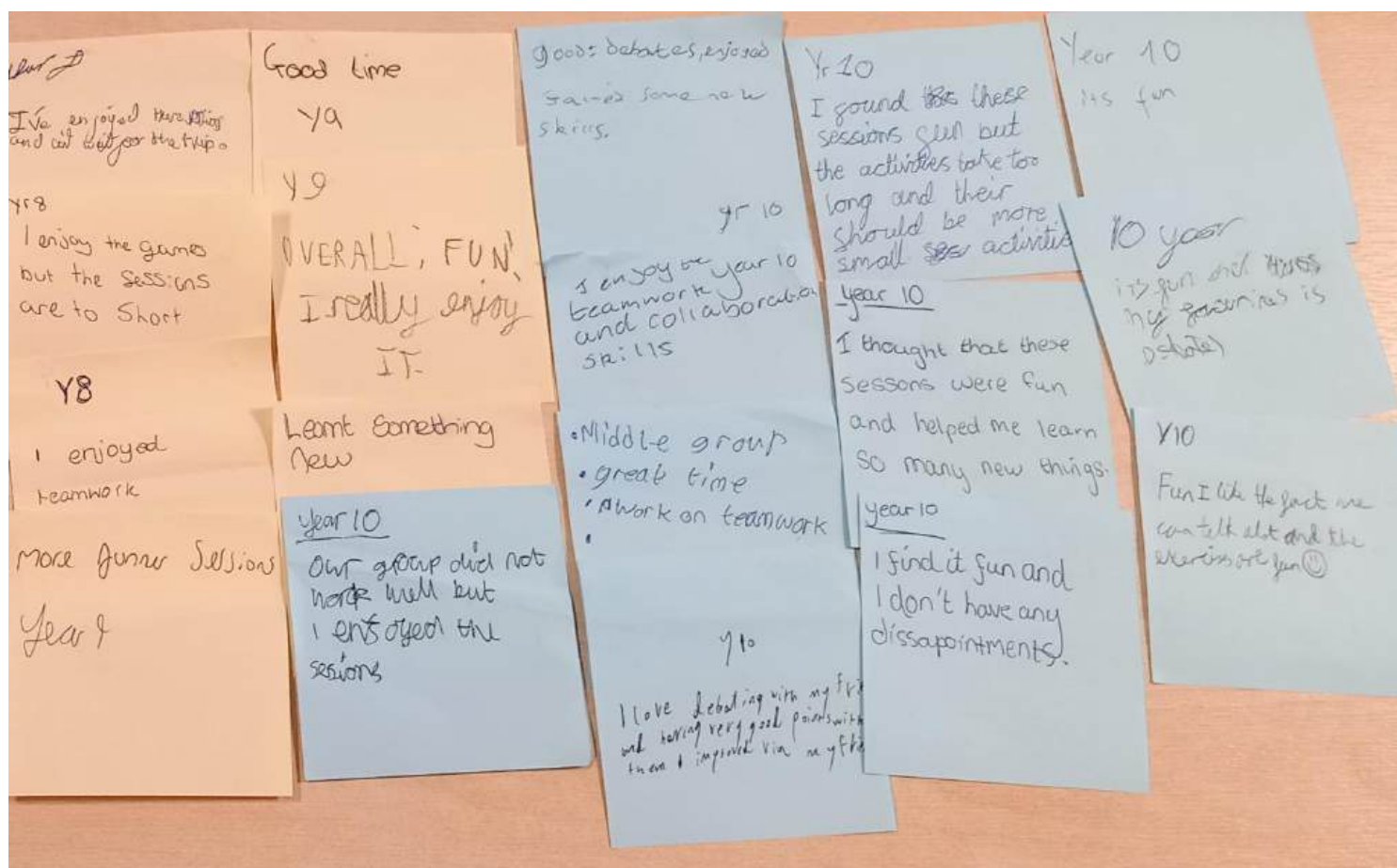
Think & Go Higher programme:

This 6-week programme supported learners to develop the skills and confidence needed to reach their academic potential. The programme included five in-school sessions and one visit to a higher education campus, with each session focused on improving metacognition and oracy — skills shown to increase academic attainment.

The key themes underpinning this programme involved:

Understanding cognition, communication skills, cognitive regulation and developing self-efficacy.

Activity	Aim
Session One - Go Connect	To make connections between knowledge through creative thinking. Justify connections that have been made. Support organisation of information and effective use of knowledge.
Session Two - Go Analyse	Develop critical thinking to help make decisions and judgements surrounding topics. Knowledge will be linked and justified before they are then critically analysed.
Session Three - Go Collaborate	Effective collaboration with peers to share ideas and opinions in order to reach mutual agreements. Students will analyse each other's view and articulate their opinion when reaching a group consensus.
Session Four - Go Debate	To build confidence in speaking and improve the skills utilised in debating. With support, create an effective argument to use in a debate with peers.
Session Five - Go Present	To present information effectively. Understand the key aspects of presenting. Demonstrate presentation skills. Identify strengths and weaknesses of presentations to inform students of their own presentation style and delivery.
Session Six - Go Visit	To use a combination of skills learned during the previous 5 sessions to complete a task which will involve: research, creating a new idea, working within a team and to present a final product.



Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.



Scholars Programme Update

This half term, our Year 8, 9 and 10 Scholars have taken part in a range of engaging sessions designed to support both their academic progress and personal development.



Year 8 enjoyed an inspiring session with Andy Griffith, exploring motivation through the lens of Greek myths. This helped students to reflect on resilience, ambition and the power of perseverance, encouraging them to apply these attitudes to their own learning.

Year 9 focused on developing effective time management skills, linked to the key ideas in *Eat That Frog*. Students explored strategies for prioritising tasks, overcoming procrastination and managing workload, which will support their independence and preparation for GCSE study.



Year 10 took part in work experience preparation, including interactive role play activities. These sessions allowed students to practise handling real-life workplace scenarios, build confidence in communication and develop professionalism ahead of their placements.

We are proud of the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all our Scholars. These opportunities are helping to equip students with the skills, confidence and mindset needed for future success both in school and beyond. Year 10 Scholars will begin work experience placements at the end of June.



Sport at Appleton

Incredible Sports Tour success - May 2026

This half term, we had our second Sports Tour to Condover Hall in Shropshire, and it was once again unbelievable. We took 50 students to compete in athletics, badminton, rugby league and football competitions against schools and clubs in the region. Our students also took part in fun OAA activities such as climbing, indoor caving, water activities, and survival.



The results were brilliant. We started the tour with an athletics victory over Uppingham School in Leicestershire. This was a real shock against a private school that specialises in sport. We then had football successes against Meole Brace and Worthen FC and rugby success against the Shrewsbury Lions. Despite a close loss on the final day in badminton against the Newport Juniors, we finished the tour as 5-2 winners. We are so proud of everyone who attended.



Sport at Appleton

Appleton Academy Football

We have had a great term of football. Our Yr7 girls team won their first ever game against Tong School. They were joined by the Yr7 boys who also beat Tong. Our Yr 8, 9, 10 and 11 boys' teams all qualified out of their Bradford schools league groups and have reached the quarter finals stage. We are hoping for some more success now we have reached the knockout stages.



Badminton

We have had a brilliant school year of badminton at Appleton Academy with our Yr 7 boys, Key Stage 3 girls and Key Stage 4 boys teams all becoming Bradford schools league champions and our Key Stage 3 boys finishing in second. We have also had a big increase in the number of our students playing outside of school with two of our students now playing at the Bradford performance centre in Heaton and a few of our students playing at the newly created Lightcliffe community badminton club. We are very proud of all of our players and we continue to train on a Monday after school and a Thursday and Friday lunchtime throughout the Summer.



This term our Yr 8 girls Methdini, Isobel, Emily and Olivia competed on behalf of Bradford at the West Yorkshire round of the National Badminton Championships. We are so proud of their efforts and their performances against some extremely strong opposition. At the end of the tournament it was confirmed that we were the most successful state comprehensive school in the West Yorkshire Junior Girls event. Our KS3 and KS4 boys teams have also had a brilliant term taking part in the West Yorkshire round of the National Badminton Championships and performing well and then beating Carlton Keighley in the Bradford league semi finals to reach the finals after Easter.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Y10 Volunteering at Harewood House

14 of our Year 10 students attended over the February half term holidays to complete the volunteering section of their Silver Award. Students took part in vital conservation work on Harewood Estate in North Leeds. All the students worked with staff from Harewood to receive training in building and repairing a dry-stone wall. Over the three days students removed a large section of collapsed wall and dug out the base of the wall. Once the preparation work was completed, they then started to build the wall to restore it. The project involved a lot of heavy lifting, digging, cleaning and moving of large stones. Students had to work together in small teams to divide up the tasks to ensure the project was completed. On day 3 after all their hard work, students had the opportunity to take part in a guided tour of Harewood House. Students also took part in some building tasks in the woods and created a fire to toast some marshmallows and have some smores.



Duke of Edinburgh

Award



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Bronze Training Days

Our Year 9 Bronze DofE students have had a busy half term in preparation for their expedition section during the Easter holidays. Students spent most of one of the training days focusing on navigation. This involved working with OS maps to learn how to measure distance, calculate timings, understand symbols and the basics of a compass. Once our classroom session was completed, we headed out on a walk in the local area to put the theory into practice. Students worked in small groups to navigate themselves from location to location. We successfully managed to make it back to school after a great effort both in the classroom and out on the walk.

Day 2 of our training focused on learning the camp craft skills needed for the expedition section. Students took part in training exercises to learn how to pitch and put away their own tents. We also looked at using stoves to cook our evening meal. Menu choices varied but Spaghetti bolognese was a popular choice for some groups! We also looked at packing sleeping bags and rucksacks to ensure students are fully prepared for their expedition. We ended the day with looking at emergency procedures and the countryside code.

We are hoping for good weather for the first week of the Easter holidays for our two expeditions. Hopefully, students will enjoy the final section of their Bronze DofE and want to continue onto Silver in year 10.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Y9 Bronze Expeditions

During the Easter holidays the OAA team were busy with two Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze expeditions. The first trip was Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th March with two teams walking from East Keswick to Bramhope Scout Campsite. After the long walk both teams were happy to get to camp and get their tents up. After cooking their evening meals everyone was glad to get into their tents for a good rest before day 2. Day 2 was an early start with students working well together and pushing themselves on towards the finish line. Monday 30th was a kit day in school for the OAA team and the next two expedition groups coming in to collect equipment. On Tuesday 31st the OAA team set off again with another two groups. A few navigation errors but both teams successfully made it to Bramhope campsite in good time. Our final day on Wednesday 1st April saw an early start again and a fantastic pace set by both groups to reach the finish line. Well done to all our year 9 Bronze students, a great effort and well-earned Easter holiday after all your hard work.



Duke of Edinburgh Award



Duke of Edinburgh's Award – Y9 Silver Training Expedition

Our Year 10 Silver students took part in a training weekend in the Yorkshire Dales on the 24th – 26th April. Students were very pleased with the warm weather during the day for their walks. Day 2 saw us start at Grassington and make our way along to Kettlewell campsite. After dinner we enjoyed a game of rounders and then an early bed to get ready for day 2. On Saturday, both groups worked hard to cover the uphill section of the day in the heat, and everyone was glad to be on the downhill back to the campsite. Everyone was very glad that the campsite had such wonderful showers! After dinner, we had some more rounders but with slightly less energy than the previous evening! Well done Year 10 on completing your Silver training, we hope you are looking forward to the assessed expedition in July.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Year 8 Mountain Biking Club

This half term we have offered mountain biking to our Year 8 students. Due to popular demand, we created two afterschool clubs on Mondays and Wednesdays. Both clubs have developed their riding skills on the fantastic facilities here at Appleton. Students got to refresh and learn the basics on our skills section in week one. We then moved on to using our on-site pump track. This was a new activity for most of our students and over the next few weeks got to practice the specific skills need for the course. We then moved on to explore the two-purpose built mountain bike trails we have here on site. Our bike trails offer over 1km of riding with purpose built drops off, berms and rollers/tabletops. Both groups have improved their biking skills greatly over the last few weeks. We are hoping to offer some offsite biking trips later in the year. This will allow our students to develop their skills biking skills even more.

Well done of all our biking students, a great effort from everyone especially on the uphill!



Keswick Residential Training Walk

The Year 9 team who are going on the Keswick Residential in May embarked on a training walk on Ilkley Moor in early March. This was an opportunity for the team to bond and prepare for the challenges of the mountain walks in the Lake District. The team worked on skills such as navigation, equipment preparation and use and also personal fitness. All students did really well and are looking forward to attending the residential in May.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Year 7 Rock Climbing Trip

On Tuesday 24th of March 19 of our Year 7 students took part in an off-site visit to a local climbing wall. Students had previously taken part in our afterschool climbing club here at Appleton. The Free lime venue in Huddersfield was had a different style of climbing to what we offer here at Appleton. Students got to try out a style of climbing called bouldering; this involved climbing up short distances without a rope. Students then climb back down the wall knowing that if they should happen to slip the large matting area under will keep them safe. This was a great opportunity for our students to take part in a new activity. Well done to everyone who took part and got to the top of the wall. We will hopefully be offering some outdoor climbing trips later in the year to allow students the opportunity to climb at local climbing crags.



Outdoor Adventurous Activities

Year 7 Rewards Trip to Harewood Estate

28 of our fantastic Year 7 students took part in a reward trip to Harewood House on Monday 11th May. Students had a wonderful day seeing all the different animals at Harewood Estate near Leeds. Students also spent time learning about the environment and the importance of conservation work. The group spent time surveying invertebrates and amphibians in the fields and streams of the estate and found many interesting creatures such as freshwater shrimp, frogs & newts, insect larvae and spiders. A big thank you to Mrs Crookes and Miss Wykez for coming with us on the trip. We are happy to say we have some more trips for Year 7 planned for next half term.



Red Nose Day 2026

Red Nose day was a huge success in 2026. We were able to raise over £500 . The students came in non-uniform for a small donation. The day was filled with many highlights from the break and lunch activities in the canteen. Where students got to guess the number of the sweets in the Jar and the name of the teddy. Also, there was the hugely anticipated Year 11 and Year 10 El Classico. Which went down to the wire with an added time equaliser by Year 10 after a cross was put in and it was smashed into the net from the edge of the box. With the game going to penalties Year 11 showed their maturity slotting all 5 to win on penalties 5-3.



Alongside the football at lunch there was a winner stays on badminton tournament held in the Muga with students battling it out till only one player was left standing. There was also Karaoke in the Drama studio with students singing their hearts out to their favourite tunes. Finally, there was basketball, table tennis and other games in the Sports hall.



Red Nose Day 2026

To cap off such an amazing day of fun and money raising several brave staff volunteered to take the plunge and get sponged. It was the third year of being sponged and it went down a treat just as it had the past two years. Students could pay to throw a soaking wet sponge at their favourite members of staff. Key Stage 3 went first, and they jumped right in throwing sponges left, right and centre with some hitting their mark. The staff volunteers remained cheery though even when year 10 and 11 raised enough money for students to dump an entire bucket of freezing water on staff. A huge thank you to anyone and everyone involved it was a successful day.



It has been an exciting term in English as we have celebrated student engagement and achievement.

English

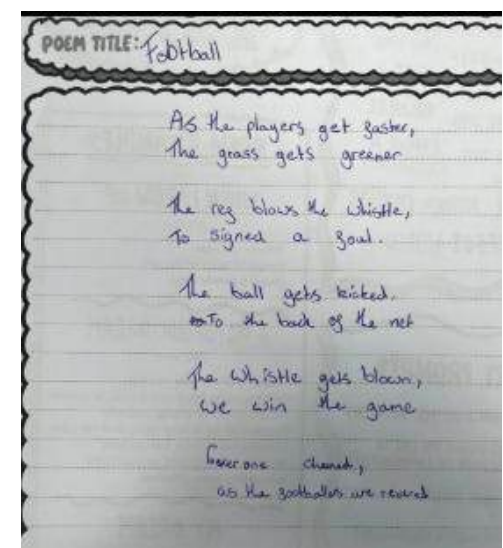
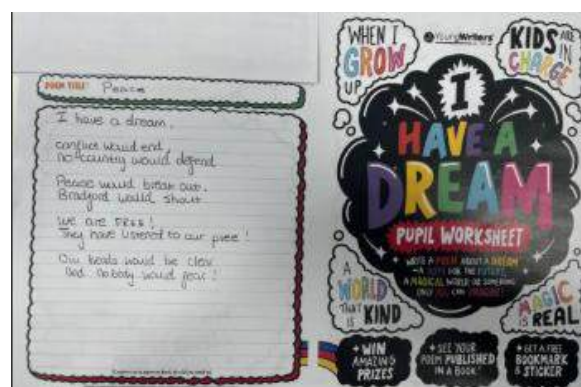
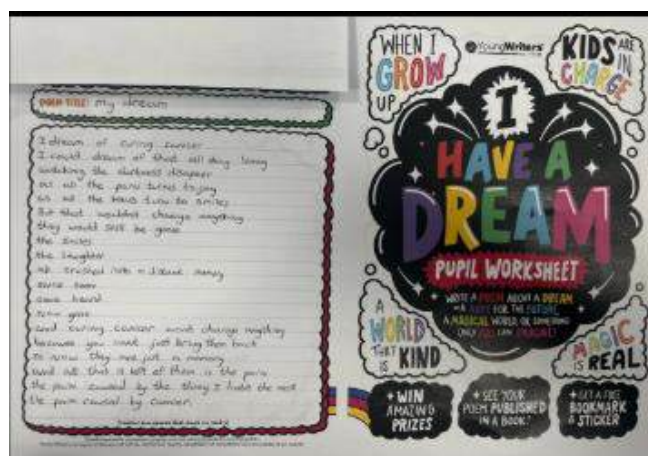
Read to Achieve Winners!



World Book Day!

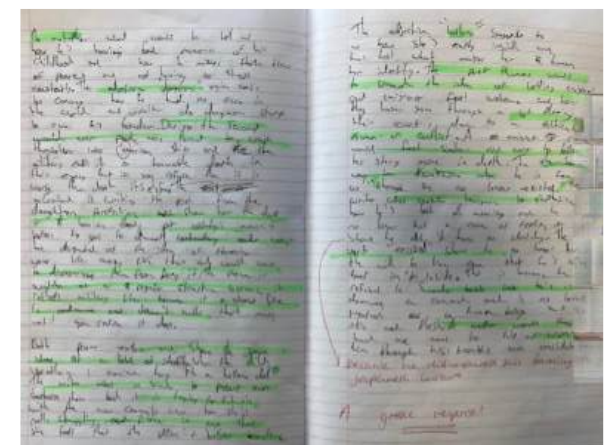
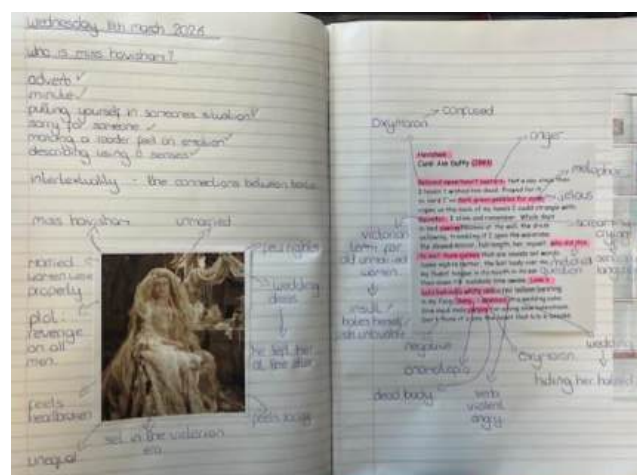


Young Writer's competition.



Examples of exceptional work.

Point	Quote	Analysis
1) Superficial and convenient	Working together for lower costs and higher prices - Mr B "Look, mummy, isn't it best?" - Sheila	Mr B - strong about business transaction - rationalised activity "Superficial" - seems superficial attitude "mummy" - immature at start
2) Their relationship begins to deteriorate as both are revealed	"I'm supposed to be grateful to the fact of it - you need the wonderful your face" - Sheila "Please don't" - Face is fresh "What you said, the house, it could be known" - Sheila	Sheila - extended metaphor of "gratitude" - "face" - "your face" - it's about looking at her relationship with her idealised version of her mother - dramatic use of words Sheila - dramatic use of words - "please" - "mummy" - "face" - "house" - "known" - "Sheila"
3) Shift in morals between the two characters	"I'll never, never do it again to anybody" - Sheila "Everything's all right now, Sheila, what about this ring?"	Sheila - repetition emphasis "never" - "anybody" - "never" Sheila - shift, no longer dramatic use of words and emphasis "ring"



Read to Achieve Winners!

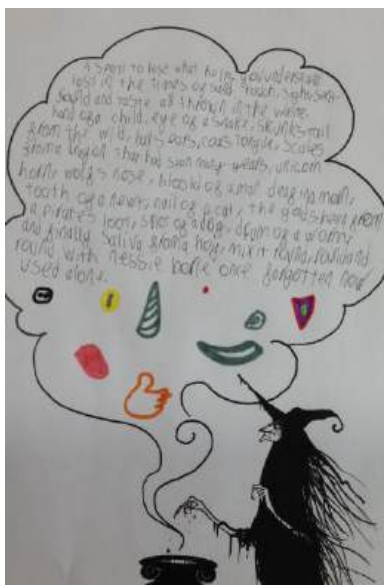
Students complete independent reading during form time once a week to promote reading for pleasure and improve their reading ability.



English

Students who engage well are nominated by form tutors to receive a reward at the end of each half term. This half term was a film and book morning.

Shakespeare Day!



Shakespeare day was a huge success. Students were able to earn tickets when demonstrating great engagement and attitude to learning, watch celebrity Shakespeare performances and create an art installation in the atrium.

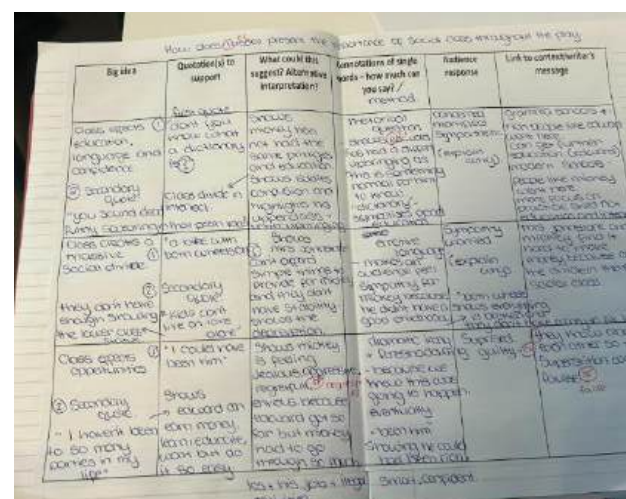
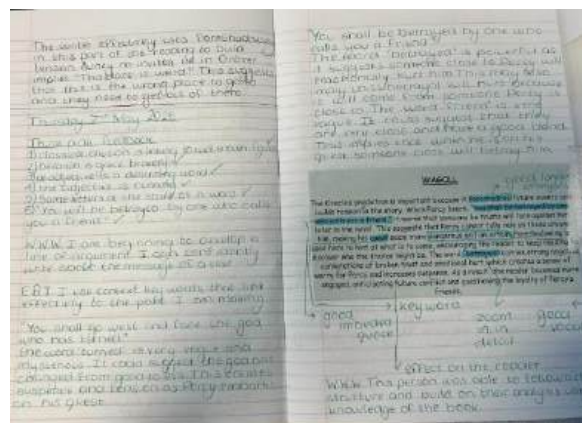
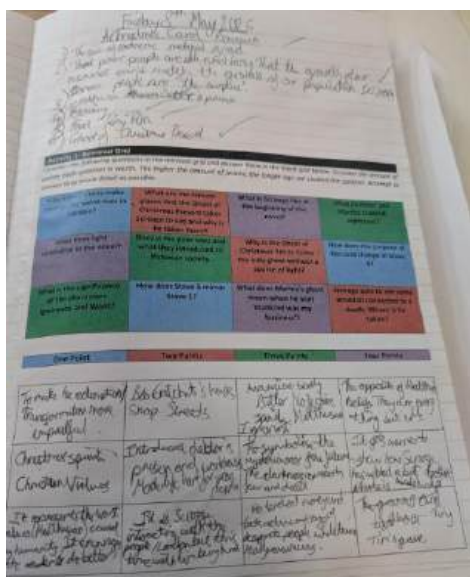


Blood Brothers Trip



Students had the opportunity to attend a performance of Blood Brothers, a text we study in Y9, at the Alhambra in Bradford.

Examples of exceptional work.



Bedrock

English

Bedrock Learning is an award-winning online literacy platform used by Appleton Academy improve reading comprehension, grammar, and vocabulary. It explicitly teaches both Tier 2 academic vocabulary (words used across all subjects) and Tier 3 vocabulary (subject-specific terms).

How It Works

Adaptive Learning: The platform adapts to each student's reading level. An AI-driven algorithm ensures students revisit and practice specific words to promote long-term retention.

Authentic Texts: Vocabulary and grammar are taught within authentic fiction and non-fiction texts to build background knowledge and cultural capital.

Teacher Insights: Bedrock generates real-time data dashboards so teachers can easily track literacy progress, monitor knowledge gaps, and report on whole-school outcomes.

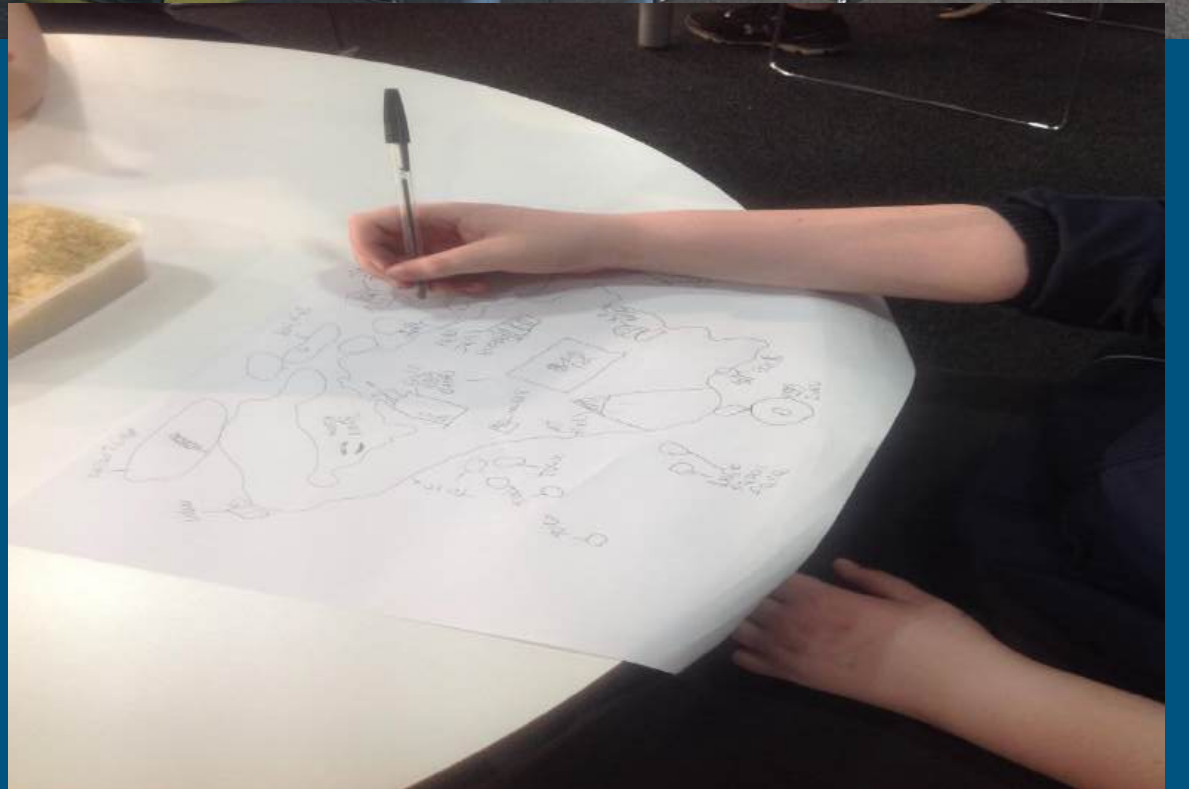
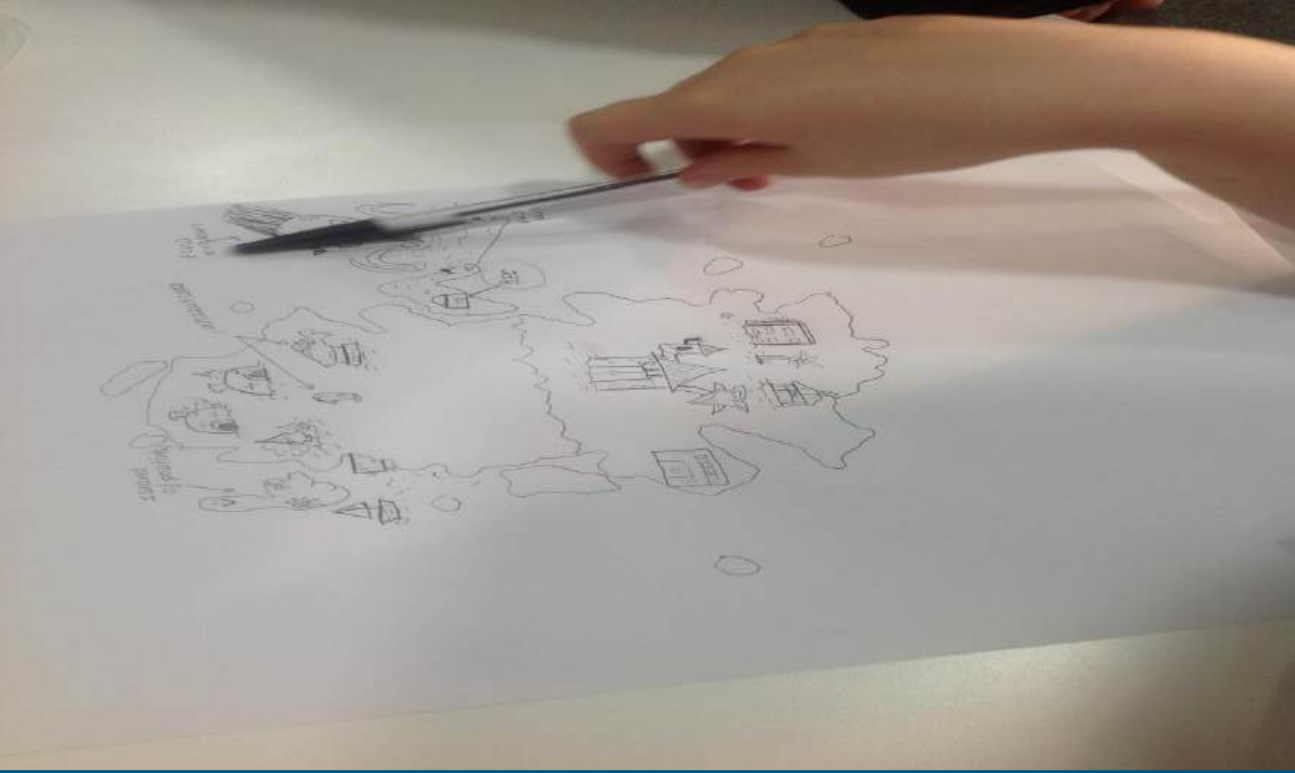


Speakers Trust

Congratulations to Patrycja Kwockzo who is the Appleton Academy School Finalist for The Speaker's Trust Competition. Her excellent speech on societal expectations for women has been videoed and sent in. We now wait with anticipation to hear if she makes the regional grand final!



Library Update

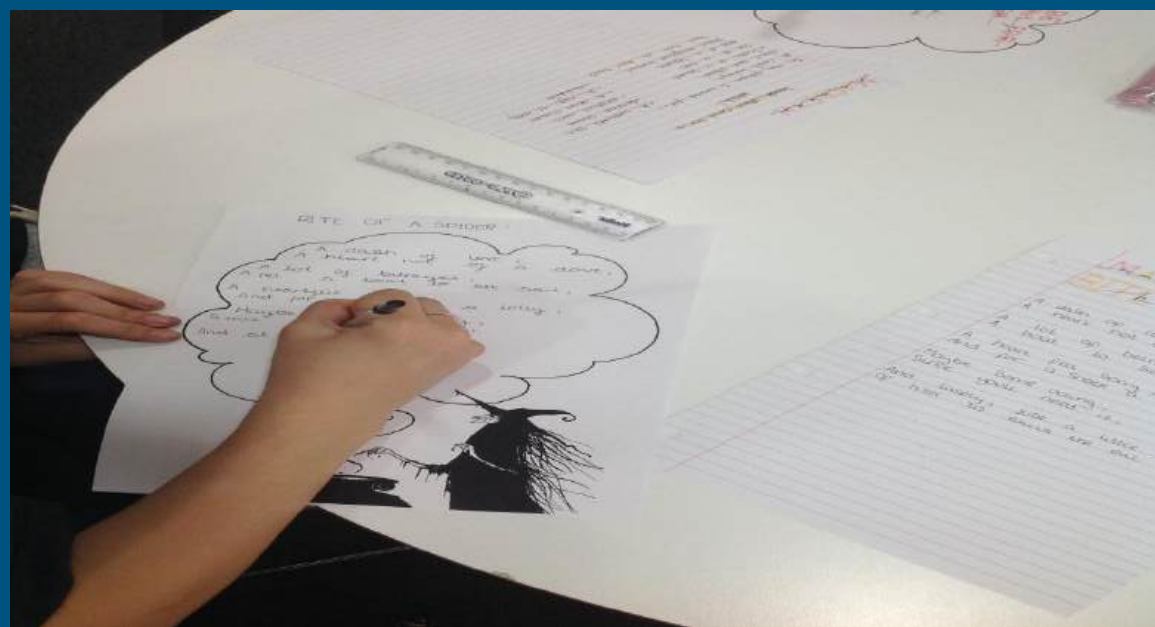


To celebrate World Book Day, our artist in residence led a map drawing workshop during Creative Club. Secondary staff read stories to our younger children in their festival corner.

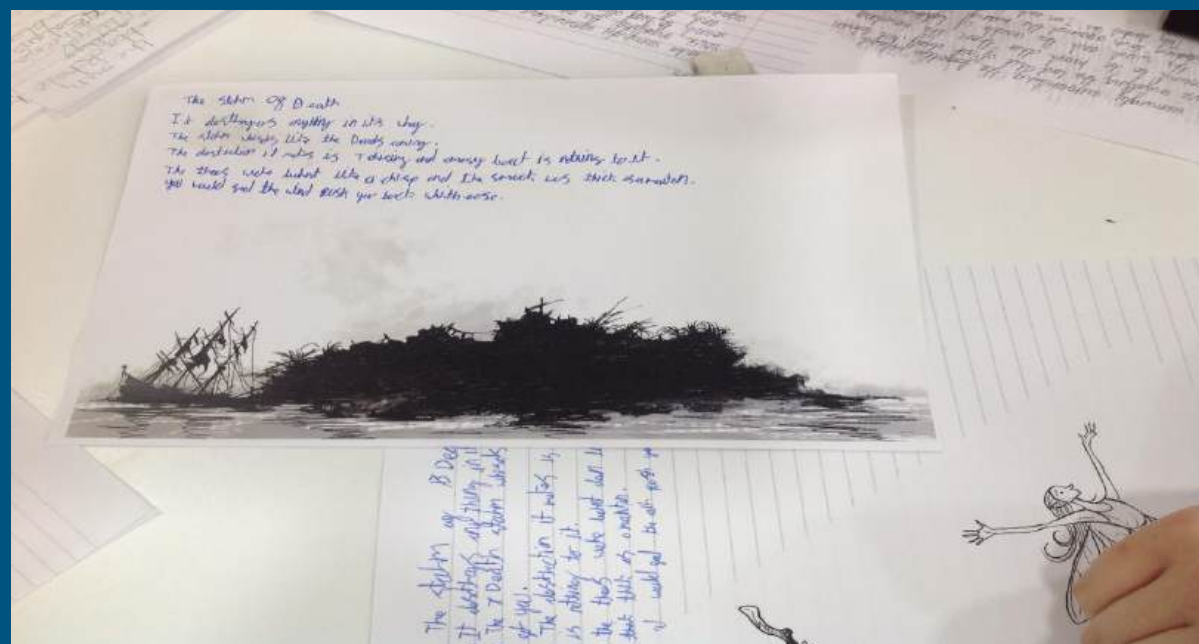


Award winning writer, Tom Palmer visited school to talk about his writing influences and historical fiction writing.

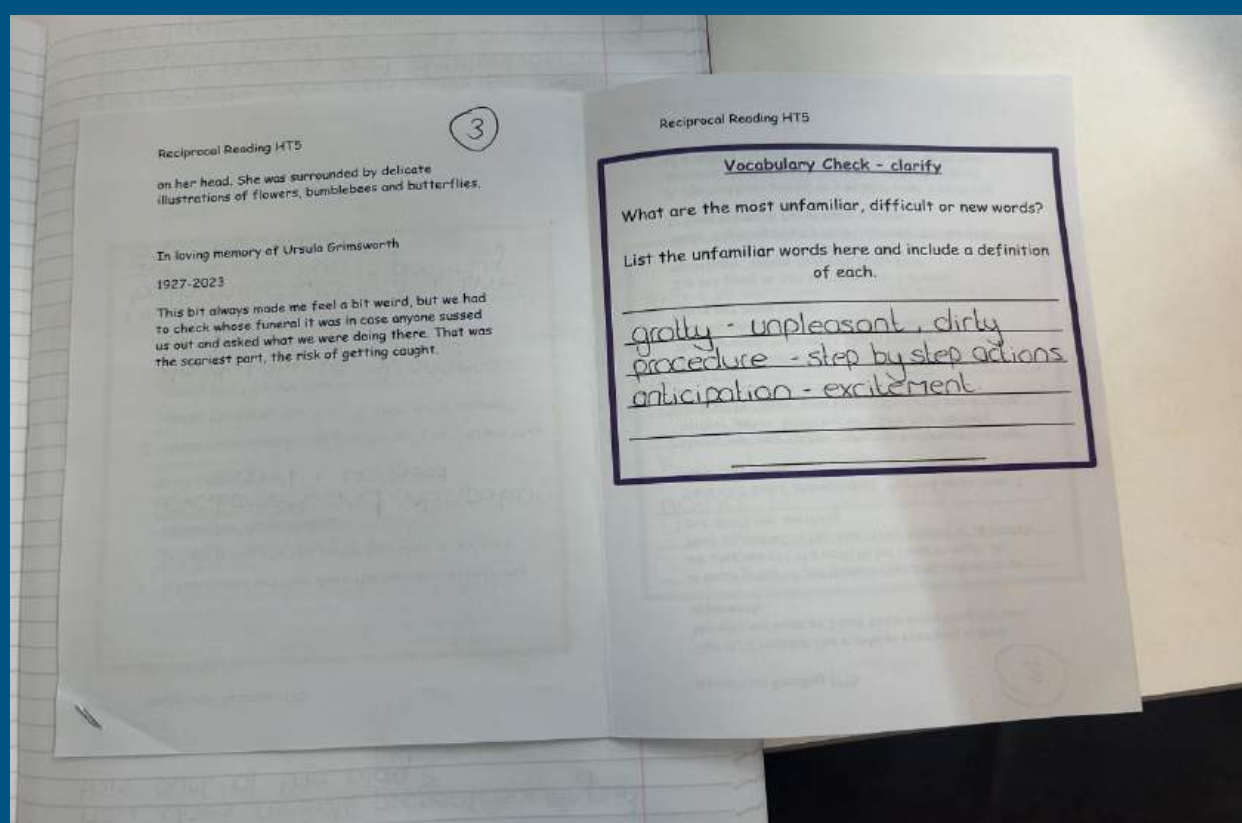
Library Update



We celebrated Shakespeare week in the library by writing and illustrating our own spells and potions.



Our reading group attended the Royal Society Science Book Awards at the Media Museum.



Another brilliant and successful addition to the KS3 library visits. Our students are thoroughly enjoying using these fantastic booklets to practise their reading skills.

Bill Smith: The Great War Workshops- May 2026

On Friday 8th May 2026 we had the wonderful Bill Smith in. He ran the great war workshop that our Year 8 students got to enjoy. Throughout the day Year 8 students were transported back to life in the trenches where they learnt about life for soldiers from here in Wyke. They were able to handle artefacts from WW1, from real unexploded shells to medals worn by the brave soldiers. Students were interested in the gas masks that soldiers wore to protect them from gas attacks and enjoyed being able to try them on.



Students were asked questions about their prior knowledge of the battle of the Somme and about the pal's battalions. They were able to immerse themselves into what it would have been like to dress as a soldier in WW1 wearing the leather waist coats and overcoats to see just how heavy they were before they even had a rifle or rucksack on their backs. They were amazed that at the beginning of the war soldiers wore cloth helmets which offered no protection from bullets and shell fragments. Overall, the students had an amazing day get hands on with WW1.



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Entry Requirements

Primary

A first degree (normally 2:2 or above).

GCSE Grade C (4) or above in **English, Maths, and Science** or equivalent

Secondary

A first degree in the subject applied for (normally 2:2 or above).

If not subject-specific: at least 50% relevant modules + ideally an A-Level at Grade C or above.

Degrees older than 5 years may require a **Subject Knowledge Enhancement (SKE)**.

GCSE Grade C (4) or above in **English and Maths** or equivalent

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Looking to the future: Alumni appeal



At Appleton Academy we highly value our connections with former students. We like to celebrate their achievements and experiences with students, staff and the local community.

We would love to hear from former students and hope to be able to work with them, in the capacity of volunteer, mentor and/or inspirational speakers. If you are a former student and would like to be contacted about the possibility of working with us, please complete the form on the link below or alternatively contact info@appletonacademy.co.uk and state alumnae in the subject.

<https://forms.office.com/e/uxFvJNr54E>

