

Ancora House School Newsletter

'Building resilience for future success'
Spring Term 2023



We've had a busy Spring Term at Ancora House and have all enjoyed working with the young people. Alongside the education programme, our young people have been working with outside providers, including Chester University and Chester Zoo. The NHS have spoken to the young people about apprenticeships, and Chester University brought the Digital Skills Bus to the hospital site for our young people to have a go at using the drone and VR headsets. We are looking forward to the weather improving so that after Easter we can get outside and hopefully enjoy education in the sunshine.



From all the staff Ancora House School.



Enjoying Learning at Ancora House School



Maths is fun! During the Spring Term we've looked at a variety of topics in our Maths sessions including bearings, standard form, percentages, ratio, Pythagoras' Theorem, circles and transformations. Within each session we've explored real-life applications of the topic, moving on to problem solving questions. We also celebrated 'Pi Day' and are always impressed when our young people can recite Pi to many decimal places.

Partnership with Chester Zoo

We are very grateful to Chester Zoo for running their sustainability project with our young people and for inviting us to spend a morning at the zoo. The young people learned about the importance of looking after our planet and the impact of climate change on endangered species. To then have the opportunity to go to the zoo and see the conservation work was great. Even the sloths were up and about when we visited.

We are currently preparing for the annual volunteering programme. Dates are set and we will have more information about this opportunity in the summer newsletter.



St John First Aid

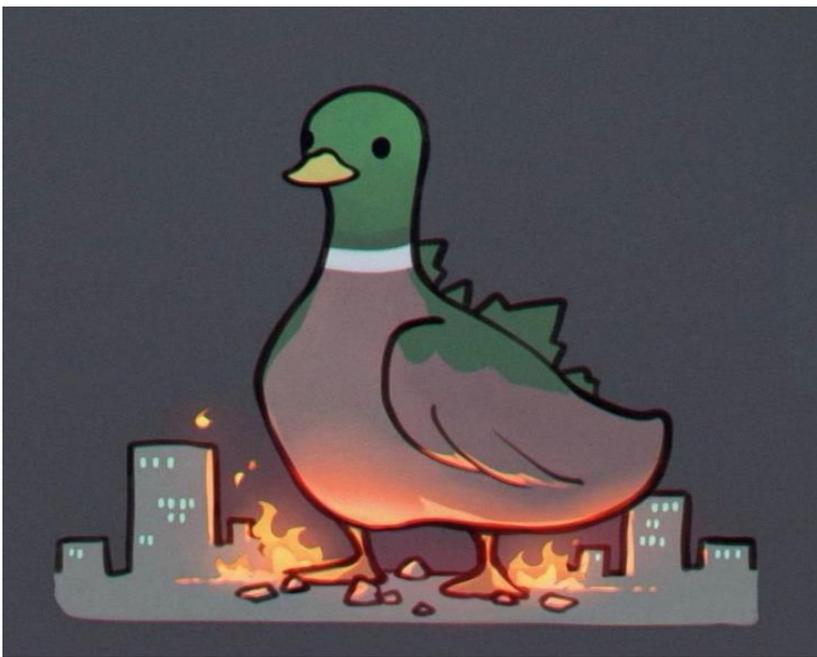
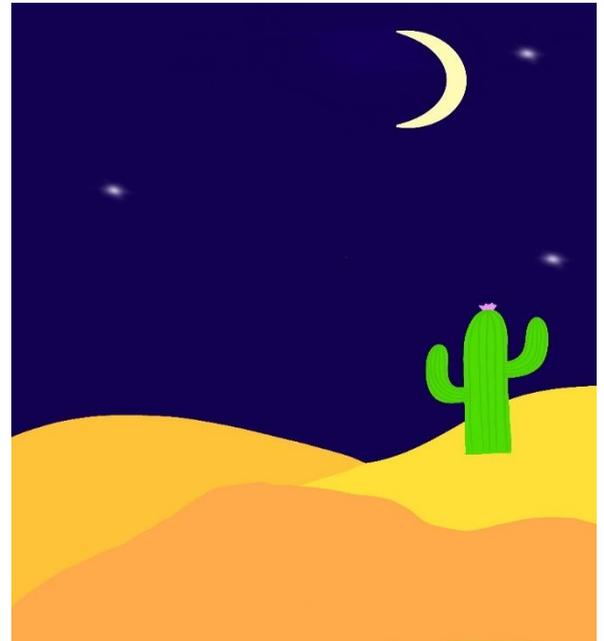
St John's First Aid Award has got off to a flying start with students learning some great skills. We have been practicing how to carry out a primary survey of an area, learning the recovery position and how to carry out CPR as well as treating a range of wounds.

PSHE

This half term has been collaboratively delivered with Gareth, a Youth Worker who specialises in teaching RSE. In his sessions the young people have looked at topics ranging from Positive Relationships, Stereotypes, Identity, A.I, Mobile Phones, and Contraception. The young people have all thoroughly enjoyed playing games, completing activities, and engaging in question-and-answer sessions on RSE. The sessions that Gareth delivers always give an invaluable insight into RSE and enable the young people from Ancora House School to openly discuss and share any concerns or misconceptions they may have around RSE in a warm, friendly, and informative environment.

Our Amazing Artists.....

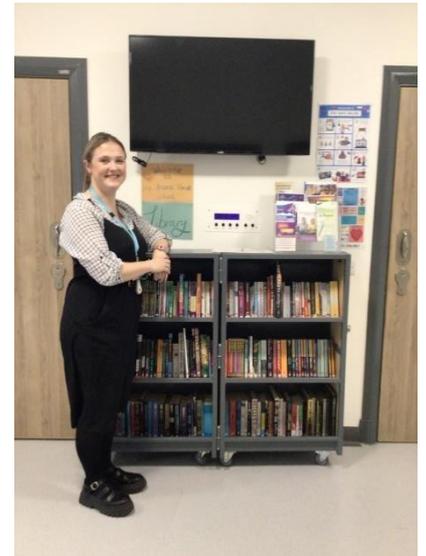
This term in Art and Design our young people have explored a wide range of materials and processes including: Digital art, Textiles, Painting, Drawing and Scrapbooking. As always, the young people have produced some incredible artwork which they should all be very proud of. We look forward to seeing what they produce next as we head into the summer term.



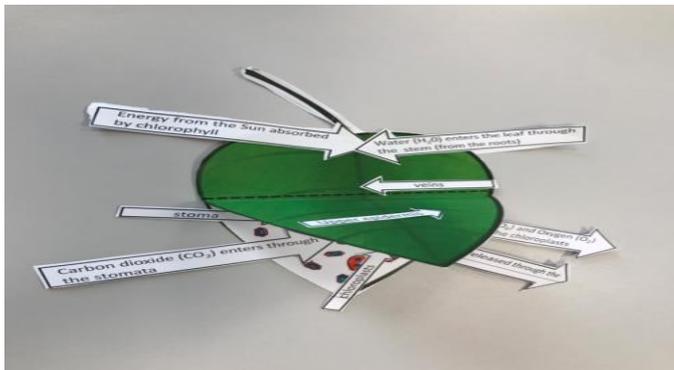
The Ancora Library Revival!

Young People at Ancora House School are being encouraged to read for pleasure. This term the Mobile Library has made a comeback in English Groups! Books are also available in education whenever the young people would like to borrow them, and young people can choose from a wide range of genres, topics, and authors; fiction or non-fiction texts. Additionally, we currently have a librarian in situ with a stamp to check books in and

out of the ward, as we are keen to encourage reading outside of education. So far young people have responded really positively to the initiative which is fantastic!



Science and Stem



In science we are working towards GCSE exams and revisiting topics from the curriculum and developing effective revision techniques. This is a picture of a leaf model which could be used to revise photosynthesis. The young people always work well in both science lessons and science group and we cover a wide variety of topics and concepts whilst having interesting conversations about the wonders of science!

STEM sessions are always popular with our young people. This term they have shown good lateral thinking and design skills on a variety of tasks, including making paper bowls, roller coasters from straws and a great new task shown in the picture, making a hydraulic crane.



Careers opportunities

This term we have focused on post 16 options and transitions to support our young people plan for next steps in education, work or training. Young people have had personal guidance, made visits to open events at colleges, schools, training providers and developed links with their community careers teams. We are very lucky to be able to work with partners from the local community who support our young people both in the community and on site.

In January, SI Valentine from Speak and Win brought his team to Ancora House to talk about employability and communication skills. The session included games, confidence building and public speaking opportunities. We are so proud of how the young people embraced this session.



Both National Apprenticeships Week and Careers Week fall in the Spring term. To promote both these weeks we are very lucky to have had Fiona from The Pledge inform our young people of the 350+ careers in the NHS and the routes into them. Young people learned how there are now many different routes into jobs; in one area of the country, it is now possible to train as a doctor solely through an apprenticeship route. The NHS is facing a recruitment crisis, and with excellent retention and development opportunities there has never been a better time to consider a career within the healthcare sector. Watch this space for an exciting announcement and further partnership with the NHS to support our young people...

We have continued our work with the University of Chester. Excitement levels were high when the Chester University Digital Skills bus arrived on the premises, and that was just the staff! The 3D printer was working hard throughout the day making a copy of the Disney Castle. The young people became expert drone pilots and used the VR goggles to explore an archaeological dig.

Chester University have delivered sessions on revision skills, the DWP have been onsite to work with students on employability skills and CVs. Story house continue their support of our young people, providing practical support to help access the opportunities available including the Young Leaders Programme.

If you would like to speak to one of the team regarding our careers programme, please use the contact details found on the website.



Craft

Mini sewing projects

Some of our learners have created these beautiful pieces of work as part of their mini sewing projects! We have some real talent! 😊



Salt dough bird feeder bowls

During outdoor education we created small bowls using salt dough that we made and one young person made this fantastic bird box. The finished results look amazing and we're interested to see if the birds will eat from them 😊



We wish all of our young people, parents and carers a relaxing Easter break and look forward to working alongside you next term.

Best wishes,

Ancora House School Education Team



