



On Track Education
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Wisbech

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SPRING 2024
NEWSLETTER

Next term starts on **Tuesday 16th April**
until **Friday 24th May**
(Closed **Monday 6th May**—Bank Holiday)



What a term this has been for Thrive. As you may know, earlier in the Spring term, our school was awarded the Thrive school of Excellence award, the highest level in Thrive's Ambassador School's scheme. We are also only the 3rd school in the whole of the East to have received such an award.

On Friday 22nd March, we celebrated with an afternoon of Thrive activities and an award event which the mayor of Wisbech attended among other important visitors. The afternoon was a huge success with all the students showing off and engaged in Thrive activities in the classrooms. The guests were guided round

the rooms to meet the students and talk to them about Thrive. The feedback from the Mayor and Mayoress was absolutely outstanding, commenting on how polite and helpful the students were. The students spoke openly and confidently about their own experiences of Thrive and were only too happy to demonstrate some of the activities.

After the tour, all the students, staff and guests came together in the willow building where we celebrated with a flute of fizz (pop), some special Thrive cakes made by our very own Tex and some speeches. Natasha and myself shared our Thrive journey's in some heartfelt speeches and thankyou's. The stars of the show went to our students, Theo, Tomi and Dylan; who stood up in front of a full room to read aloud their Thrive experiences since joining On Track. The three read with poise and credence, and judging by the proud looks on the faces of staff, they did a magnificent job. Theo, Tomi and Dylan even made it onto Thrive's main social media pages and Thrive has since asked if they can publish their speeches on their websites because they were so impressed.

Thrive then presented our school with a special thanks and plaque which we will display with pride and accomplishment for all to see. Just when we thought the afternoon was done, Milo and Poppy presented Natasha with the biggest box of flowers I have ever seen, followed by Darren and Dylan doing the same to me, a lovely way to end the afternoon with flowers from our key children, it was very emotional.

I wish you all a restful and quality half term break and we look forward to welcoming all our students back in the summer term!

Gemma



For urgent Safeguarding matters ring:

Diane Woodward—07935 758084

Claudette Scoffield-07741 625957

Gemma Adams-07824 817319

Attendance

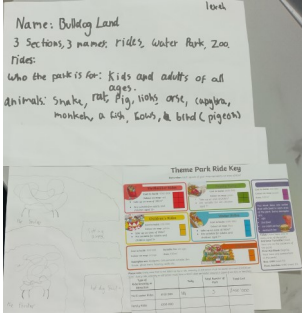
Well done to Spencer who has 100% attendance for this term.

Please make sure you ring 01945 580898 asap if your child is not well enough to come into school



Cooking—In cooking this term the students have been exploring Chinese and Spanish foods. The focus has been based on cooking independently, while multi-tasking, maintaining a tidy work station and keeping a high level of presentation with their finished dish. Recipes they have made include Salt & Pepper chicken, BBQ pork buns, vegetable spring rolls, Chicken & chorizo paella and Spanish cake cookies. The students have all worked extremely hard in the kitchen this term and feedback from staff has been amazing.—*Casey*

Math's—this term we have learnt a variety of topics from Pythagoras Theorem to sequences calculating the Nth term to be able to identify



how to multiply and add fractions. One of our groups have even become business partners in building a new theme park, working out money, using scale factor, multiplication, addition and planning.—*Jenni*

DT Workshop—It has been a very good term for the DT department, the students are really stepping up their game, Fleur has designed and made a custom table to enable herself to use her laptop and have somewhere to put a cup of tea, she created a detailed drawing from which to work and then made the table with only minimal help. Ralfie is nearing completion of his corner unit, with the bead and quirk back panels in place, just the mouldings, glass and fittings to do. This has been a very ambitious project but he has mastered many skills along the way.



Sports— This term we have had a fun filled adventure; Our children have loved experiencing new sports. We ventured out into the wilderness geocaching which entails map reading and finding hidden capsules. We have found them in trees, in fake



rocks, also in hidden gaps in walls. We even made our own for other people to find. Also, our children have climbed to the tallest part of a wall, rock climbing! It's been great to see them learning new knots of how to stay safe, and also to conquer heights and just have fun! - *Jenni*

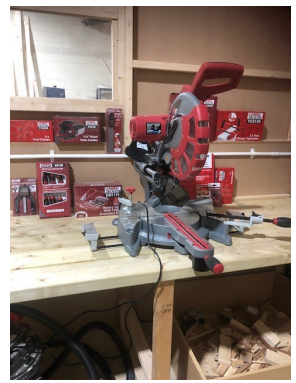


We have had a range of artefacts made from fold up chairs to jewellery boxes to side tables made by these brilliant young people. All work is done using hand tools, with only very minimal use of machines or power tools. —*Harry*

Bushcraft—During this term the students have had the opportunity to makes their own bush crafting tools, they have made a rod and striker for fire lighting, a mule (a wooden hammer) and have been shown how to sharpen knives. The students have spent time perfecting their fire building/lighting skills. They have cooked their lunches on an open fire and completed the slat band obstacle course blindfolded. The students have participated in team building games and have engaged well in these! - *Casey*



Thank you so much to Lumberjack Tools
We have just received a donation of some tools and equipment from a company called 'Lumberjack Tools' consisting of a top of the range Sliding Mitre Saw, a sander, a precision drill and accessories, a sander, many clamps and many other workshop tools—*Harry*



Children's Mental Health Awareness Week - we celebrated Children's Mental Health Week (5th - 9th February) and started the week by having a speaker from the Young Person's counselling service to deliver a workshop based on how we can look after our wellbeing. The rest of the week was spent in school working on mindfulness activities which helped to raise awareness of mental health.



Staff dressed up as what they wanted to be when they grew up! - *Tasha*

HERA - We have introduced our new transition programme HERA - designed for our Year 11 students to help them when it comes to moving on from our setting. HERA stands for health, education, responsibility and accomplishment. Our programme is delivered with a supportive care approach which is student led - with each student having their own individual programme to help meet their needs. This term we have had some fantastic visits to lots of different colleges.



On March 6th we visited the Festival of Knowledge at the Norfolk Showground which is a careers based fair. This was a very successful day which saw our students connect with a range of different individuals as well as learning about different careers and pathways—*Tasha/Joana*

Careers—Well done to Dylan who has completed his vocational workbook - he is now well on his way to achieving a vocational qualification! The year 10's and 11's have also been enjoying some offsite activities visiting job fairs and career fairs- with varying degrees of success and enjoyment! The year 10's have also begun working on their BTEC Level 2 in Workskills - *Julie-Anne*

Our **SMSC** calendar has been action packed this term! SMSC encompasses any event which develops our students **Spiritual, Moral,**



Social and Cultural skills. We have celebrated National Storytelling week, Chinese New Year, and had a full week of activities for Children's Mental Health Week, where we focused on the importance of looking after our mental health and wellbeing. The most recent even on our calendar was National Day of Reflection, where we made remembrance flowers to honour loved ones we've lost—*Carys*

Reading



We started a book called "Fing" The students did some beautiful reading telling us about how Mr & Mrs Meek went to the library to research what a "fing" was!—

Claire

Farm—It has been a very cold, muddy winter for everyone who goes to Wisbech Community Farm each week - but that hasn't stopped any of our students from having fun! We have been really impressed with the way they have got stuck in to the activities on offer, like animal care, woodwork, fire-building, and crafts (and occasionally jumping in muddy puddles)... This term we have had a visit from some llamas, learned how to groom the ponies & plait their manes and tails, started on some woodwork creations, and made pancakes by the fire—*Carys*



Reward Points-Here at On Track we encourage the students to use positive behaviours. We do this by giving students points for each lesson. In a 3 week period if students have collected 110 points or more



they get to take part in golden reward time. Some of the rewards can be trips offsite like laser tag, bowling, pool, glow golf or students can choose a movie in school with snacks.

Here are a few of the rules that students follow to earn their points:- 3 points for Extremely good behaviour, great manners and being respectful. 2 points for Appropriate behaviour, staying in the classroom for the whole lesson. 1 point for Behaviour has been corrected and the student has made an effort to stop. Student has left the classroom but returned. 0 points for extremely bad behaviour, bullying others. As you can see the students really enjoy these golden reward trips and have a great and fun afternoon. A great incentive for positive behaviours for all students—*Emma*

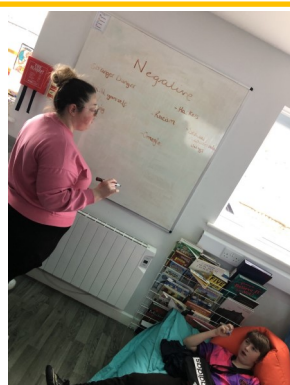
British Red Cross-This term we had a visit from Nigel at the British red cross. He brought along a couple of his friends "Annie's" where the students were learning how to save a life giving first aid via chest compressions. Our students were taught that everyone is able to do something in an emergency even by calling for help or calling 999. We look forward to his next visit in the future -*Raj*



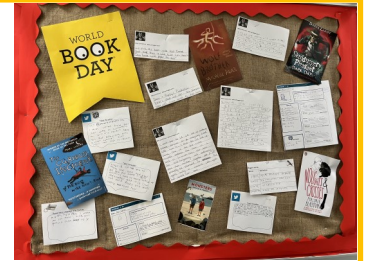
Wildlings - This term we have focused on survival skills at the WILDlings, we have looked at map reading and scavenger hunts! The students love making mud pies in the mud kitchen and making food over the fire—

Capreece

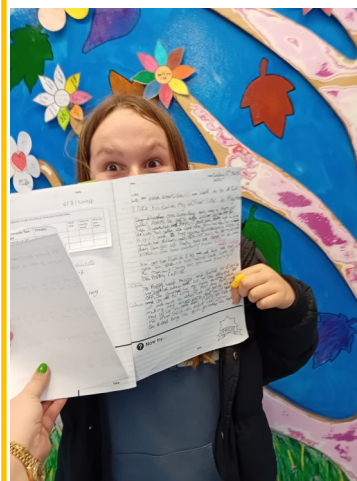
Safer Internet Day - the students looked at negatives and positives of interacting with people online. This opened up lots of great conversations between staff and students. We also then had a fun quiz for the children to work together for! - *Capreece*



World book day—this year was a lot of fun, we introduced the children to different genres in reading groups. The children were exposed to some of the staff's favourite books, including Wolfbrother, Naughts and Crosses and The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night time. Some of the children really identified with the books and were keen to read more. We also took the children to the local Wisbech library where some signed up for library cards and even withdrew books, this is a great life skill to have-*Penny*



English—This half term in English we have been looking at letter writing, we have used our



empathy skills learnt in Thrive lessons to imagine being in different situations which we have reflected in our writing. The students are now comfortable in their knowledge of both formal and informal letter writing. Well done everyone!-*Penny*

Horse riding— This term at Fenland Equestrian Centre, we have seen enormous improvement in our students skills both working with the horses and in their riding lessons.



Several students are working towards a certificate in Equine Care which could set them up for work in the industry. It has been



amazing to watch their confidence grow this term, with Tomi now off-lead rein and Spencer trying his first canter! - *Carys*