

The Meadows School

Autumn 2017 Termly Newsletter



Special events this term at The Meadows

26 Students visited The
Black Forest Region in
Germany

Classes JH & NG meet
Royalty!

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Award Success

The Christmas Concert and
Fayre



Happy holidays from The Meadows Family to your Family

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year 2017-2018. The year has got off to a flying start as we have already packed in a host of activities and visit.

The Manor Hall Academy Trust will be expanding in the New Year as Rocklands School in Lichfield join the trust. Rocklands are a primary special needs school who share the same ethos and values as the Trust and our overall aim is for all the schools to work together to share best practice and help each other to improve. If you wish to find out more about the Trust and its member schools, all schools will soon have new websites, thanks to Phenix who ourselves and Springfield have worked with for a few years now. Our new website will be 'going live' in the New Year, so watch this space!

Class News...

Class CJ

Classes 5 and 6 have been studying Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone over the Autumn Term with Mrs Jackson. They made all kinds of props; witches hats, school badges and went into the woods to collect sticks which they made into wands. They also looked at what makes a good friend and being courageous. The students also really enjoyed making potions and making things change colour in Science lessons with Mr. Harvey.

Students have been learning about what it means to be British in their British Values topic which included learning

The Co -op store on West Street has made the Grow Moorlands gardening enterprise one of its charities of the year. Meadows students play a major role in this enterprise. We will take a small percentage of every sale in the shop this year so please feel free to shop there and help the gardeners of the School.

We are delighted to announce that we, The Meadows have achieved the School Games Mark Award for the 2016/17 academic year. This is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition and sport across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

about the rule of law and the justice system and learnt about Elizabeth Fry and her work in prisons and students made their own judges wigs. They finished the term by studying Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' which linked into injustice, poverty and generosity.

In another topic, students learned how to identify four key emotions: happy, sad, anger and fear and looked at how they could begin to manage emotions. They made stress balls out of balloons filled with flour which was very messy, but great fun!

Class News Continued...



Class AT WW1 display

Class JH

This half-term Mr. Harvey's class has been reading 'Commotion in the Ocean'. They have found out about lots of different sea creatures and have produced a lovely piece of display work on a creature of their choice.

Science

Classes NG and JB have been learning about Forces in Mr. Harvey's science lessons. Some of the investigations they have done include comparing the amount of grip which different shoes have; making tin foil boats and seeing how much weight they hold; making a density column from different liquids and testing the strength of different magnets.

Grow Moorlands Enterprise

Grow Moorlands is an enterprise founded by The Meadows which supports young people by providing opportunities for voluntary and work experience and pathways into future employment. Recently, four sixth formers, Tom, Andrew, Nathan and Ashley, under the Grow Moorlands umbrella, have been working in co-operation with our local housing association, Your Housing, to help tidy and renovate the gardens and grounds of their Belle Vue flats in Leek. So successful have their efforts been, that for the first time in seven years, there is now full occupancy in the flats. James Coates, Development Officer for Your Housing in Leek has been very impressed by the efforts of the students and is now offering an expansion of the scheme to their Eagle Mill flats in Leek. Great credit goes to the four for getting stuck into a tricky and challenging task with energy and enthusiasm. The scheme is projected to last into next autumn and will be a useful addition to the students' CV's as well as improving the lives and environment of the tenants of Belle Vue.

Another group of Sixth Formers have been helping out in the gardens at

Class AT

During the winter term Mrs Thomas' class have studied the story 'Survive the Savage Sea'. A true story of the survival of a local family from Warslow who were ship wrecked and survived on a raft in the middle of the Pacific Ocean for 37 days. Through this story, Class AT explored: the difference between 'wants and needs', empathy, team work, creative writing, how to understand and interpret different points of view.

Students have also been exploring WW1, we have looked at life in the trenches and read some real letters that were sent home by some of the soldiers. We explored, what it might have felt like to be one of those soldiers and what you might or might not want to write in a letter that you sent back home and why.

The Daisy Hays retirement flats on Ball Hays Road. They have tidied and planted in the bistro area and have been helping individual tenants who find the digging and lifting a bit too strenuous. Emma Salt, the home manager, is thrilled with their efforts and all the residents have been full of praise for the students. It's good to see the generations mixing via gardening and it's plain to see that the residents enjoy meeting our young people. The scheme is open ended but should carry on for at least the rest of the year.

Meadows students continue to maintain the Sparrow Park flower bed in Leek Town Centre. We have forged good links with The Co-op Funeral Service just by the beds. They kindly offer us a drink and use of the facilities. It was good to see our efforts encouraging local people to sit and chat by the beds through the summer and autumn. We aim to continue to maintain this important floral bed in town with twice yearly planting.

Please contact the school asking for Chris Best or David Whewell if you are interested in finding out more information about the enterprise; what we do with the students and how we are constantly looking to offer our services out into the wider community.



Class of 17 - the Germany Group and Mr. Best playing Tour Guide in Freiberg!



HRH Prince Charles stops to chat with Meadows students!



School News...

Duke of Edinburgh Success

Six students passed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition in October, walking to and from Stanley Head Outdoor Centre in tough conditions with full camping rucksacks, camping out in the autumnal chill and navigating the route by themselves. Expedition assessor, Alistair Mayo, was impressed by their determination and teamwork as well as noting their excellent camp craft. They are all now renovating the Leek High School Quad garden to fulfil the volunteering element of the award and should all gain the certificate in the spring.

Black Forest, Germany Trip

In October 26 students and 6 staff travelled by coach and ferry to the beautiful Black Forest region of Germany staying in a Youth Hostel in Triberg for 4 nights. The whole trip was a fantastic success with the students enjoying every moment and making the most of all the opportunities presented to them. All the staff was so proud of their excellent behavior and 'can-do' attitudes. They visited the cities of Strasbourg and Freiberg, braved a mountain-side toboggan run and had a wonderful day trip to Europa Theme Park. Many wonderful memories were created by all.

Leek Food Co-operative

Our students have been helping out with the packing of fruit & veg bags at Leek Food Co-op, a scheme to encourage healthier eating by Leek residents. Scheme coordinator Gavin McAllister is full of praise for the students who have worked hard to provide this valuable service.

Tree planting at Springfield School

Groups of KS3/4 and sixth form students have been over to Springfield to help plant trees and bulbs which were donated to the school.

Panto Visit with Royal Guests!

Students and staff from Mrs Gardner's and Mr. Harvey's classes had the thrill of greeting Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall as they arrived in

Stoke on Trent, at the start of a whistle stop tour of the Potteries. We were already in Hanley Museum, to watch the Mow Cop players, production of Snow White, when the show was stopped and we dashed outside to welcome the Royal visitors. It was a thrilling moment, to wave our flags to honour the future King of England. We did wonder how long Joe would be taking to the Duchess, but she managed to get away in order to chat to the seven dwarfs! It was certainly a moment for The Meadows book of magical memories.

Raft building

In September Class AT went to Tittesworth Reservoir and worked in teams to build two rafts. The raft building activity was linked to an English project, based on the book 'Survive the Savage Sea'. The students used the experience to help with the creative writing element of this project. Both teams raced each other across the reservoir. They practiced paddle skills and moving around the raft. Some enjoyed the water so much they had to jump in!

Outdoor Education

Jackie Robinson has been getting out and about locally doing lots of Outdoor Education activities, despite the recent bad weather, and students have enjoyed activities such as orienteering, geocaching and walks to Ballington Woods.

Other news

Other trips and visits this term have included a fun visit to 'Our Space' adventure playground and a lovely day trip to the Churnet Valley steam railway and a class lunch at the American Diner in Leek. The Sixth Formers have enjoyed Christmas Meals in both Leek and Newcastle and the school Christmas Lunch took place on 13th December with staff and students tucking into roast turkey with all the trimmings. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Ball finished by getting everyone singing Christmas songs!

We finish the term with our Christmas Concert and Fayre on 13th December which promises to be, as always, wonderfully memorable, and with Mrs. Ball at the helm, what could possibly go wrong?!