



Message from the Head of School

As I am sitting here writing this message I am looking out on a winter wonderland of snow and winter sky. It has been a long while since we have had such a wintry day and I am grateful to the site team for getting in at 4am on Monday morning to clear the paths in order for us to be able to open our doors to students.

We are blessed with dedicated staff across all areas of the school and this was very apparent in the huge team effort that went into making the Christmas Fair such a huge success. It has taken staff and students weeks to create all of the fabulous Christmas items for the big day. It was great to see our very own Father Christmas and Mickey and Minnie Mouse as well. Thanks so much to all the parents that were able to attend. We made over £600 on the day so I am sure some of you were feeling lighter of pocket on the way home! I think we have some natural sales people on our student team. Thank you for all of your positive feedback on the day, it really makes the effort worthwhile.

We have had a quiet term this Autumn. Our focus has been on mastering the delivery of teaching and learning through the curriculum that we have been working on. We have been working hard on implementing our teaching model which is incorporating metacognition and self regulation into effective learning habits.

For the first time in many years of leadership I have had to ask staff to stop planning so many visits so that we can focus on the classroom. I have never worked in a school where staff are so motivated to extend learning beyond the classroom through trips and visits.

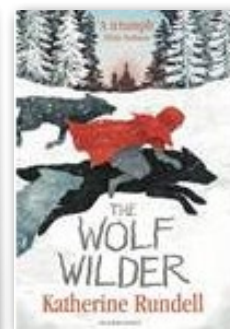
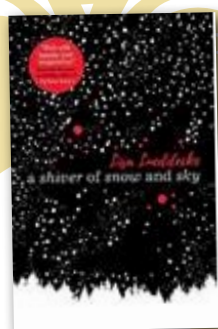
It is testament to your young people that we are so happy to take them out. We are always complimented on the behaviour and attitude of our students and know that we can always be proud of them in the community. So watch this space.... It may be a busy trip term next term.

Thank you all for your support for these amazing young students. We wish every family all of the best for Christmas and the New Year and look forward to opening our doors again on 3rd January.

Ms Juliet Morris, Head of School

Seasonal Reading

Please encourage you children to read over the Christmas Break - all students can bring a book home with them but there are many more Seasonal Themed books to explore at you local library:



In this edition.....

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS



Accelerated Reader



And much more.....

Cleeve Meadow Christmas Fair

WOW!!!! What an amazing turn out for our annual Christmas Fair. Firstly, a big thank you to all the students and staff who helped out on the stalls to sell our handmade goods.

From Christmas themed tote bags, stockings and cards to chocolate filled baubles, sausage rolls, tree decorations and many more. Well done to all the students and staff for making such beautiful items to sell and a massive thank you to all parents and carers for showing up and getting into the Christmas spirit with our students.

We hoped you all enjoyed the musical stylings of our talented student Joshua in Year 11 who played so beautifully on the piano. Thank you again for being so generous in your purchases and buying tickets for the tombola we managed to raise just over £600! This will be going towards our school food bank and the charity 'Save the Children', who will also receive the money raised from the wearing of Christmas Jumpers.





RENAISSANCE®

Accelerated
Reader

Accelerated Reader Award

On the 14th December 2022 we were announced as the winners of the **Renaissance Learning (international) Schools Award for 'Celebration and Achievement.'** We will be receiving an award, a certificate and a gift box of books from Laburnum House publishers.

Below is an excerpt of our submission:

Cleeve Meadow School is a specialist provision supporting students with moderate learning difficulties with additional needs. When our students arrive in year seven they often have low self-esteem and are disconnected from reading. It is our aim to ensure that every student who arrives with limited reading capabilities, leaves with a reading skill set preparing them for life post-year eleven, alongside a love and passion for reading. Reading is at the heart of everything we do and the whole school has embraced the Accelerated Reader programme.

We have introduced multiple competitions this year which have been extremely popular. Differentiation is at the heart of everything we do and we have tailored the Accelerated Reader programme to meet the needs of our students. By looking at our latest assessment results this has been very successful.

It is important to note that attempting to obtain age-appropriate books for our secondary school students with low reading ages is a huge task. We as a school have made up many quizzes on phonics books, comics, modules and even our reading material to ensure that every one of our students can access and be part of the Accelerated Reader program.

It is vital that they feel they have a second chance at learning to read in a supportive environment, where the reading material is appropriate and matched to their chronological age. Our whole school has made great strides this year in supporting our young people with their reading and we couldn't be more proud of the students and staff alike.

WOW!

All I want for Christmas is..... a book!

Research shows that literacy, and reading, in particular, have a significant impact on young people's life chances. A child who reads every day will not only improve in English and reading but in all other areas of the school curriculum.

Every student at Cleeve Meadow participates in the Accelerated Reader Programme and parents and carers are encouraged to keep track of their child's reading by logging into home connect and supporting at home. You will find the links on the school website.

Creativity with reading is something we are proud of at Cleeve Meadow. The little lunchtime library is an initiative that was started last year. It is put out onto the playground every lunchtime and kept in the school hall during bad weather for students to enjoy and continue with reading at unstructured times. Students continue to enjoy many of the competitions on offer, especially the weekly words read cup and the reading raffle, which takes place at the end of every term. I am pleased to announce that this term Cleeve Meadow school has been nominated for an award and invited to the Renaissance Awards ceremony. Watch this space for further announcements!

The intervention team at Cleeve Meadow school have been busy this term delivering lots of different interventions to help students with their reading. We are pleased that several students have completed the RWI Fresh Start programme and have moved on to echo reading and precision teaching.

Look out for a new initiative starting in the Spring term called the National Literacy Trust Skills Academy. The programme is a reading intervention for secondary school pupils and aims to improve students' literacy comprehension skills. A few students have already participated in a taster session this term and seem to have enjoyed the programme.



We want to continue to develop a true 'Book Culture' at Cleeve Meadow this year, where the joy of reading is promoted at every opportunity – including at home! Can you please encourage your child to participate in the reading Christmas bingo challenge over the festive period? They may win a £10 Amazon voucher on their return to school.

I must finish by thanking you all for supporting your child with reading across the school. It really does make a difference!

Merry Christmas,

Mrs Simmons, Literacy Lead





Over the course of this term all students at Cleeve Meadow have experienced a new Scheme of Learning in Science. The new Scheme of Learning aims to link Science to everyday life, to enable students to see how Science is relevant to our modern day lives.

Year 7 students have been working on scientific skills, such as naming equipment and making predictions for experiments. Year 8 Students have been looking at energy transfers and efficiency of appliances in our homes. Year 9 have been studying waves and wave properties and starting to look at the periodic table and quantitative chemistry. Year 10 and 11 have been completing coursework towards the WJEC Entry Level Award in Science Today.

All of the students have taken on the challenge of a new curriculum brilliantly and should be proud of their efforts this term!

Ms Blunt, Science Teacher



Cleeve Meadow goes to the Bike Project

On Tuesday 13th December, 5 intrepid Cleeve Meadow bike mechanics took a busload of 13 bikes to The Bike Project in Deptford.

The students have spent this term repairing, cleaning and renovating the bikes, each week they taking a fresh bike, and over the course of the day dismantle it completely, before they clean, service and reassemble it. Through repeating the process each week, the students have developed their awareness and skills in identifying which tools are required for each step in the process, and the importance of giving every part a thorough clean to remove the crusty old grease, dirt and rust, before applying lots of lovely fresh grease, oil and other lubricants during the rebuild. Finally, each part of the bike is tested to ensure it is working properly and safely.

The Bike Project is a charity dedicated to donating bikes to refugees, catering for people of all ages from single adults to whole families. Please visit their website to find out more about their work <https://thebikeproject.co.uk/>

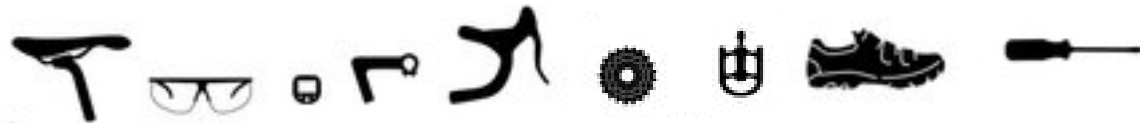


The bikes our students have renovated have all been donated by members of the public, and following our restorative work, the charity is delighted to receive them in good condition and ready to go out to needy people following some final safety checks.

During the visit, our mechanics were given a tour of the workshop, where they watched trained mechanics carrying out the same repairs, using the same tools and equipment as we have in school. Who knows, maybe at some point in the future some of our students will become professional mechanics themselves.

We are always looking for unwanted bikes to renovate, so should you find, when tidying out the shed or garage, that you have an old bike that needs a little TLC to make it ready for a new lease of life, we'd love to receive it from you.

Mrs Parry, Lead TA



Personal & Social Development Lessons

PSD or Personal & Social Development is a planned, developmental programme which equips students and young people with the knowledge and skills to deal with a range of issues they face as they grow up.

PSD promotes a cross-curricular approach to the students learning that incorporates imaginative ways of supporting young people in:

- becoming confident individuals who are physically, emotionally and socially healthy
- being responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society and embrace change
- managing risk together with their own wellbeing

Over the last fourteen weeks of learning at Cleeve Meadow our KS4 students have broken down potential Barriers to Learning, during which students have discussed their most common cases and how to overcome them:

- lack of focus
- negative past experience
- personal mindsets



In addition we have discussed the difference between healthy and unhealthy relationships.



A poster for Internet Safety and understanding why our parents have rules for our use of it by **Aliamin B**



A positive poster for teenagers an what they aspire to achieve by **Mariana H-C**

MUSIC @ MEADOWS



Many of our students take up the opportunity to learn a musical instrument - Here is **Alfie B** showing how following instruction enables him to achieve a better performance - click on the image to watch him play!

DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

But despite being on similar adventures the group's experience couldn't be more different....

KEY STAGE 4:

The KS4 gang caught an upstart birdman, a Kenku called Kettlesteam, spoiling the carnival's good times only to ally themselves with them discovering that they too believe the ringmasters know more about Prismeer than they are letting on.



Whilst at the Big Top our players were selected to put on a grand performance, only for lady luck to cast her gaze aside, and following a series of bad rolls they stumbled and fell on their butts and Kai the Barbarian got caught up in a deadly knife throwing game with a nervous clown.

Then the cleric Alexia in a desperate bid to keep the audience's attention revealed the fabled mask of The Lockwood family, accidentally driving one man insane. To make matters worse the tiny ghoulish girl in the pig mask that has been stalking them used some kind of magic to send the magical mecha-men haywire causing our heroes to deal with these metal marauders while the audience escaped.

With some nail biting close calls that nearly took out two of them they defeated these dangerous defective droids and have won themselves an audience with Mr.Witch and Mr.Light.



Meanwhile.....

KEY STAGE 3:

The KS3 Heroes have had a similar yet very divergent experience!

The Changeling rogue Otis caught our Kenku 'friend' red handed and before they had a chance to tell him their reasons, sent them away with the carnival's security, all the while pocketing the magical necklace that lets them communicate via a stolen voice.

They too went to the big top and watched an amazing performance by Otis, Scratcheye the Wizard and the Paladin of Vecna, Aether, during which Otis using his shape changing abilities to look like a minotaur staged a fight against Aether while Scratcheye put on a special effects show.



They wowed the audience but found themselves too at the mercy of the pigmask girl's revolting robots. With the help of their new ally 'Katrina Leche' (*Played by an enthusiastic Ms Willis*) they dispatched them quickly but their conversation with the owners was cut short when they refused to talk about Prismeer.

They then pulled off a heist for a magical object that featured some astounding team work involving hanging from the ceiling, distracting screaming and conversations and finally convincing a squirrel named Red to help



Hey and well met fellow adventurers!

Last time we met our heroes from both sessions were on a quest to find their way to the land of Prismeer by visiting the Witchlight Carnival and getting its ring masters to assist them so they can finally get on the trail of the missing children!

them. The owners relented and after divulging their secrets promised to send them to Prismeer after the carnival ended.

The carnival's end included announcing 'The Witchlight Monarch' a title given to Aether for his amazing deeds that day and with all being awarded a small prize of gold each for saving the carnival. Now they have finally made it across the veil and stand in Prismeer on the Queen's Way bridge, ready for the real challenge to begin...

'WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?'



It's important to note that these adventures will start to diverge even more from this point as each group's character backstories affect the plot and that there is no real RIGHT or WRONG path taken on these adventures.

Our Players have shown some amazing growth in their recollection, problem solving, storytelling and teamwork skills that have had us reeling in delight.

Sometimes it takes a while to get to 'have a turn' in Dungeons and Dragons, especially in groups as large as the KS4 one, which can get tricky to be patient for. However one student, who values feats of strength and skill as highly as someone can do and lives for that victorious feeling when a blow lands on an enemy, showed some amazing restraint by instead of taking what could have been the final blow on the miniboss the group was tackling, sacrificed their personal feelings to heal his ailing team mate instead.

Turn-taking is a hard skill to learn for some and it was a wonderful moment to see this student, unprompted, think about how he could help his team instead of doing his favourite thing.



AND FINALLY....

And congratulations to the KS3 group for reaching Level 2, a whole plethora of new skills and spells are at their fingertips now as they take their first steps into a strange new land.

So raise your glass, your flagon, your blade, and salute our brave warriors because they are becoming the heroes they dreamt of being but in reality, always were.

Mr Mountain THE DUNGEON MASTER

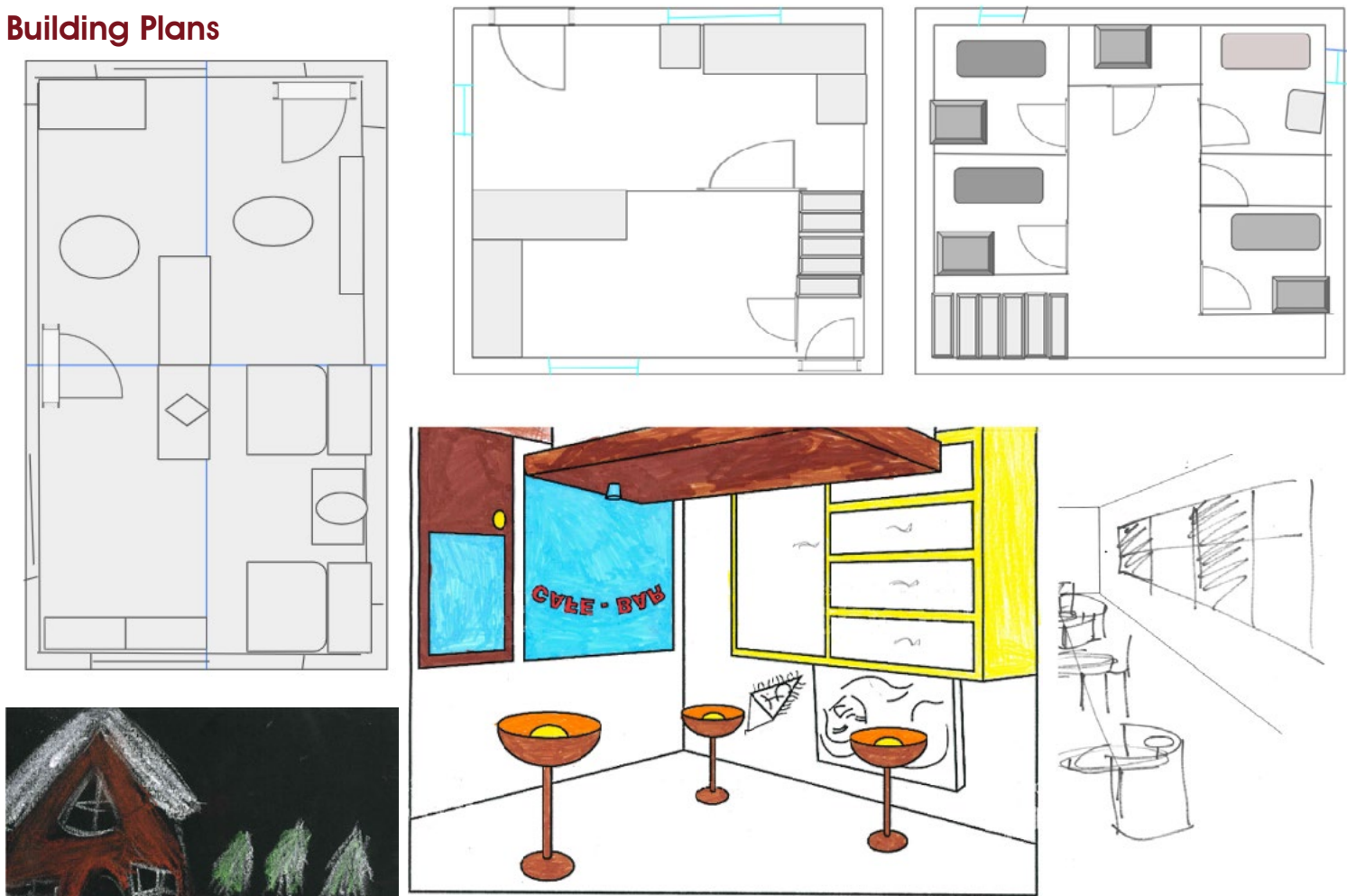


Designing from Experience

Year 10 students at Cleeve Meadow continue to successfully **DESIGN AND BUILD A MODEL HOUSE** as part of the **Unit Award Scheme (UAS)**. Students are rewarded with a certificate each time they successfully complete a unit of learning. They can build up a portfolio of certificates to evidence their skills, knowledge and experience.

The scheme boosts confidence, increases engagement and improves motivation, helping students to make progress on their lifelong learning journey. UAS covers all topics from school curriculum subjects to life skills, outdoor activities, arts and crafts, and work-related learning. Its inclusive, versatile and flexible. They are wide and varied so students of all abilities can take part in the scheme.

Building Plans



What is the Unit Award Scheme (UAS)?

UAS allows all students to engage with learning and have their achievements formally recognised.

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The Unit Award Scheme continues to excite Year 10 students with the introduction of a range of schemes that boost confidence, increases engagement and improves motivation. Combining the **DEVELOPMENT OF SKILLS IN THE USE OF TOOLS**, an **INTRODUCTION TO PAINTING AND DECORATING** and the **PAINTING OF A ROOM** with support will eventually rejuvenate the reception meeting room to a **COMMUNITY LEARNING HUB**, where parents/carers and visitors will be encouraged to meet, talk and create exciting plans for the future of the Cleeve Meadow community.



We have had a busy term in maths. We have been working on daily **fluency** in maths. **Fluency** is about developing number sense and being able to use the most appropriate method for the task at hand; to be able to apply a skill to multiple contexts.

The National Curriculum states that pupils should become fluent in the fundamentals of mathematics through varied and frequent practice. At Cleeve Meadow School this has mainly consisted of number bonds and times tables. As well as fluency we have been working on length and perimeter, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division as well as geometry.



We are happy to see that our students are engaging really well in our new online maths platform 'Freckle'. We are excited to announce that in January we will be introducing a maths achievement cup. The winning form will be based on the number of questions/accuracy achieved on 'Freckle' outside of the classroom.

Alison Palmer
Maths Teacher



Happy Eco-Christmas!

The Eco-reps are really keen to build on the great progress we made last year to be environmentally conscious!

We introduced recycling bins and this year we will be monitoring to check they are being used properly. The gardening and site teams worked tirelessly to create lovely spaces for wildlife to flourish and we hope to continue this during the year.

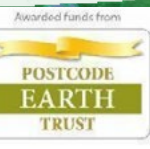
But while we are working hard in school, we challenge you to try a little act of Christmas themed eco-kindness at home too! Why not try one of these little actions to help our world, plants and animals...

1. Put some food out for garden birds during Winter
2. Swap a Christmas jumper with a friend or relative so you both have a new one this year!
3. Make gift tags from old Christmas cards and give homemade gifts – you could bake some cakes or cookies
4. Turn down the heating and put on a jumper – save energy and money!
5. Plant some seeds or bulbs in pots or the garden if you have space
6. Make your own Christmas decorations... using natural or recycled and recyclable materials – no glitter!
7. Have a 'lights off' day to save electricity!
8. If it's safe, pick up litter and put it in the bin, and recycle it if you can
9. Eat a meal made from foods grown locally or in the UK – reduce the air miles of your food!
10. Reduce the plastic you bring home from the supermarket... buy loose fruit and veg rather than bags.
11. Wrap gifts without sellotape – re-use string or ribbon instead. Use fabric or recycled brown paper to wrap your gifts.
12. Swap a car journey for one that you can walk instead.
13. Try a meat free meal
14. Turn off the taps when not using water, e.g. when brushing your teeth
15. Try growing your own fruit or vegetables for next year.

We'd love to know if you manage to complete any of these - or others!

Good Luck!

Mrs Southby



www.eco-schools.org.uk

Student Responsibility Reward for the Eco-reps of 2021-2022!

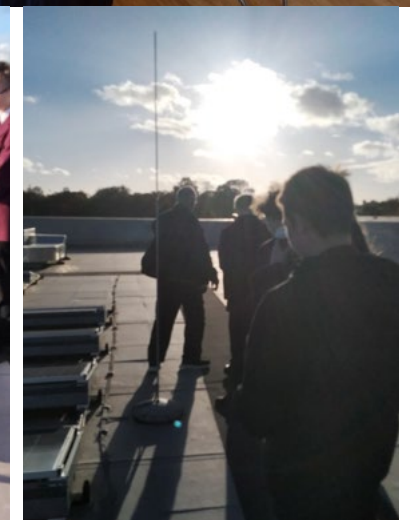
Last academic year, the Eco-Committee worked very hard to help ensure we, as a school and within the wider community, are being as environmentally conscious as we can be. Throughout the year, we undertook a number of initiatives which everyone across the school was involved in to help improve our environment. We hope you enjoyed reading about them in previous issues of the newsletter! Of course, the icing on the cake was earning our Green Flag Award!

At the end of the summer term, at our end of year awards ceremony, I was very proud to learn that the Eco-committee had been voted the best student responsibility group for the year! So, a reward was in order! The group chose to enjoy a drink and a snack in the Cleeve Park Costa Cafe for the afternoon before venturing up into the Cleeve Meadow roof for a tour of all the features that help to make our school eco-friendly.

The amazing Mr Iveson led our tour, explaining everything brilliantly. We saw the air heating and cooling systems, the solar panels which enable us to create electricity and hot water systems - we were all surprised to see how small the boiler is for such a big school! The solar panels were really impressive, and it is reassuring to know that we can produce some of our own electricity to feed back into the power network. Our next challenge is to find out how much electricity we are producing!!

Thank you to Mr Iveson for giving up his time and the opportunity to do it. Keep up the good work, Eco-reps, I wonder if you can keep the title for a second year?!

Mrs Southby



MEDIA

In our media sessions we are almost ready to go and finish off our Vlogs, all of which are based on our individual student's subject of choice. We've got stop-motion animation, pet advice, arts and crafts, nail art, fashionistas in training and the ever popular topic of video games.

But before we get going and put our final projects together we've gone back to basics and in both our KS4 and KS3 classes we are editing in Adobe Premiere Pro a small video as a group to nail down exactly what goes where and which functions do what.

Cutting tools, effects, selecting footage and images, all to bring to life a piece of important cat based news of a small island in Japan dedicated to its pussycat population. They're adding a little 'oompf' with opening and closing sequences and some music to help set the tone to what was once a barebones news segment.

Next term it's on to applying all these tips and tricks into finally creating their own personal videos and bringing you all something truly special to watch.

Mr Mountian, TA & Media Lead



Uniformed Services

This term, the Year 10 Uniformed Services option class has benefitted from the expertise of Tim Madden, who served in the Royal Artillery in the British Army. He has been extremely generous with his time, supporting the class in completing some of their course.

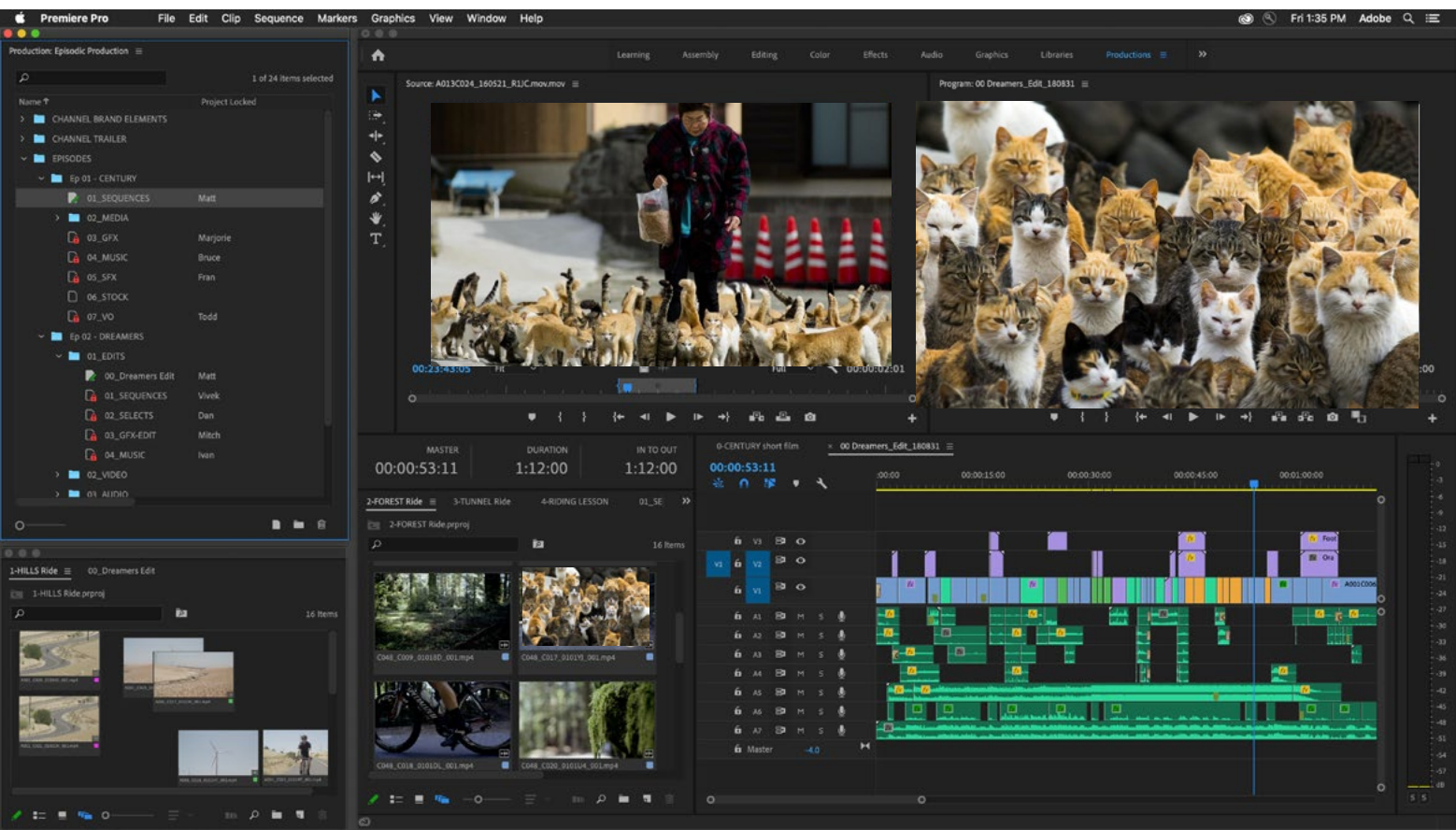
Tim gave the students an insight into the roles available within the Army and the key values that it upholds. We learnt about the specific skills, personal qualities and qualifications needed to pursue a career in the Army.

Tim bought in his service medals and identity tags to show us and some of the foods that soldiers have to eat - which was very tasty! The students were able to ask lots of questions about a career which many are interested in.

In addition, Tim has been teaching the students basic foot drill. We learnt about the aims of foot drill and some of the basic commands and drill movements. With Tim's repeated visits, the students have been able to practise and perfect these commands. The 'squad' have learnt how to stand to attention, stand at ease and turn as well as marching. You may see us marching down the corridors practising!

My sincere thanks go to Tim for all of his hard work, effort and giving up his time to help the students in this way, it is very much appreciated and the students have really enjoyed it too!

Mrs Southby



Theatre trip - Thursday 15th December 2022

The year 10 dance group will be watching Cinderella at Dartford Theatre. This is to help them gain more knowledge in the performing arts industry, to help them with their dance course work and of course a little treat for working so hard.

We can't wait to watch the show!

Ms Bakewell



And to end this final Newsletter of 2022 we have a beautiful poem from our very own Mr Watkins, inspired by the wonderful snow we woke up to on Monday and his beloved pet dogs....

I woke up to snow

I woke up to snow, with sparkle and glow, a carpet of shimmering white.

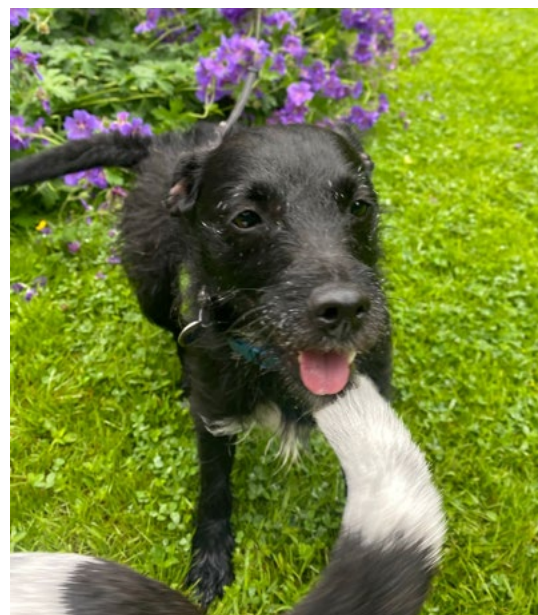
I woke up to snow, of memories I know, the laughter and fun out of sight.

I woke up to snow, cold breath all below, a million bright stars twinkling bright

I woke up to snow, Batman, Judy and Milo, their happiness and love quite a sight.

Of tumbling fun, excitement begun, a holiday like this, is no other.

With family and friends, loved ones ... Steve x



Slade Green Foodbank, located in the heart of Slade Green in the London Borough of Bexley, run by Howbury Friends and dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members, and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. For anyone attending the foodbank no voucher is required. <https://www.sladegreenfoodbank.com/>



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