

The Week At Pinetree – Week Beginning 15th June 2020

This week saw pupils and staff at Pinetree move into their 'bubbles' as Year 10 pupils were invited back into school. With the end of Key Stage 4 education now in sight for these pupils, and the way forward for schools still unclear in the continuing pandemic, it was important that pupils returned to school ready to roll up their sleeves and make up for time lost away from the classroom. This included high levels of pastoral support for those returning.

There was a greater emphasis this week on the core subjects of maths and English, and Year 10 pupils continued their preparation for the GCSE English exam through looking at literary texts and attempting exam style questions. Below is an example of pupil analysis of language techniques used in fiction, in this case "Enduring Love" by Ian McEwan:

Question 2 - Enduring Love

The writer uses onomatopoeia to describe the bodies thumping off the ground.

This is clear in the line "bodies were thumping off the ground".

The use of the word "thumping" connotes that the bodies were hitting the ground from a high place.

This makes the reader feel disturbed when bodies are falling and making thumping noises when they hit the ground.

For those pupils hoping to sit the GCSE English Literature exam, groundwork was laid through the reading of two key texts for the exam, namely Stephen Kelman's "Pigeon English" and Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".

In maths, pupils spent time revisiting the topic of number and drilling their knowledge of times tables, as well as brushing up on their multiplication and division techniques. Work on fractions was based around the topic of pizza, which did cause minds to wander somewhat, and led to the following exchange:

Teacher: If you had two fifths of a pizza, would that be better than having three tenths of a pizza?

Pupil: Depends what was on it sir.

And the emphasis on maths and English did not mean that other parts of the curriculum were neglected, as you would expect here at Pinetree. The kitchen bustled in its usual physically distanced way, with potatoes on the agenda this week. As well as completing theory work on types, ways of cooking and health benefits of the humble spud, pupils also produced their own potato salad and duchess potatoes, using a range of kitchen techniques.



In Art lessons, pupils were encouraged to use pastels, leading to some incredibly striking images: Pupils continued to show their creativity and enjoyed the chance to try new skills.



And although the move to bubbles for staff did restrict access to the workshop for some pupils, where equipment could be individualised, DT continued to be a source of pleasure. Pupils continued their project and one pupil is the proud new owner of a plaque for his bedroom following his project completion.



With PE sessions containing a mixture of football, badminton and table tennis, it all added up to another week of productivity and progress for all at Pinetree. And for those pupils currently not attending, staff were, as always, on the phone ensuring that all were safe and well, that work was being completed and feedback given. We also had a very special guest through the Duchess of Cambridge assembly which was observed beautifully by all in their individual classrooms and our new pet deer made another appearance as the quieter environment benefits the local wildlife.

As always, a big thank you to staff for their efforts, and to pupils for their continued positive approach in difficult times. See you next week.