

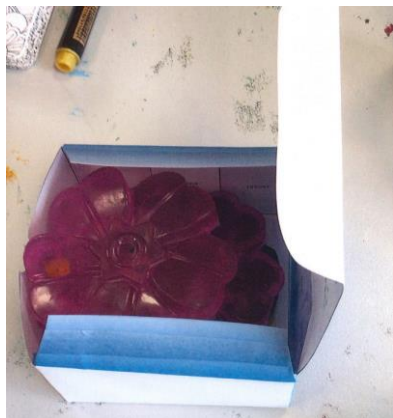
Prince's Trust



This Lego creation really deserved its name, the Mars Rover 'Perseverance' was built following Lego instructions using pieces from a huge box of Lego with a few additional specialised pieces, ordered to make it fully agile and capable of moving smoothly over the Lego landscape. A Prince's Trust STEM Award 'Personal challenge' was presented to one of our very talented Lego masters.

Soap Making

Beautiful designs, vibrant colours and glorious aromas! Soap Making at Ancora House School. The young people on both Coral and Indigo have really enjoyed creating their own soaps and designing fancy boxes to put them in. Lots of sniffing, mixing and fun was had by all!



English Group

When exploring GCSE poetry through pictures, our young people created some beautiful work to support their revision and preparation for the English Literature examination, this young person was specifically looking at the poem 'Storm on the Island' by Seamus Heaney.

Storm on The Island

We are prepared: we build our houses squat,
Sink walls in rock and roof them with good slate.
The wizened earth had never troubled us
With hay, so as you can see, there are no stacks
Or stooks that can be lost. Nor are there trees
Which might prove company when it blows full
Blast: you know what I mean - leaves and branches
Can raise a chorus in a gale
So that you can listen to the thing you fear
Forgetting that it pummels your house too.
But there are no trees, no natural shelter.

You might think that the sea is company,
Exploding comfortably down on the cliffs
But no: when it begins, the flung spray hits
The very windows, spits like a tame cat
Turned savage.
We just sit tight while wind dives
And strafes invisibly.
Space is a salvo.
We are bombarded by the empty air.
Strange, it is a huge nothing that we fear.



Capoeira

In June, Cheshire Dance came into school to offer the young people a Capoeira workshop. We learned some cool moves and had a go at playing the drums. Cheshire Dance's Raphael showed us how Capoeira is done by professionals, but we had loads of fun having a go.





Reptiles Off Roadin'

We are all so excited to have Reptiles off Roadin' come into the hospital. The young people loved handling the reptiles and just spending time to watch how they move and interact.



PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education)

During the summer term we have again welcomed Gareth to deliver a series of sessions on the 'Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)' aspect of the curriculum. During these sessions our young people have looked at a range of topics including building positive relationships,

stereotypes, identity, appropriate use of mobile phones and contraception. They have all thoroughly enjoyed playing games, completing activities, and engaging in question-and-answer sessions. Gareth always delivers sessions that give an invaluable insight into RSE and enable our young people to openly discuss and share any concerns or misconceptions they may have around RSE in a safe, warm and friendly environment. OFSTED recently observed a PSHE lesson and recognised that “teachers work with sensitivity, and shape the curriculum to help pupils learn the right content at the right time”, lovely feedback to receive.

STEAM

Following on from our GCSE exams we have been creative in science and STEM sessions this term. We have looked at recycling and made paper bowls – these are always popular! We have also had some paper challenges, including making a chair out of paper and a competition to see who could make the longest paper chain from a single sheet of paper. In science group recently we looked at a news article on orca attacks on boats in the Mediterranean and read about how animal behaviour could explain why this has happened.



Careers opportunities

The summer term is nearly history! Many of our young people have been concentrating on their studies and exams, but we have also been preparing and planning for their next steps. Young people have had access to individual, impartial guidance. Many have visited their potential next educational settings and made arrangements for ongoing support.

We have continued our work with community colleagues. Allie from the Department of Work and Pensions has supported students to get their CVs in order, while Chantal from Chester University has been supporting students with revision techniques and developing their critical thinking skills.

The Ancora House team has been working to update their use of IT in a joint venture with CWP. CWP has funded the purchase of a Virtual Reality headset, and Ancora House School the purchase of a 3D camera. We have begun using the equipment with the young people and plan to allow young people a way of seeing colleges / opportunities from the ward – watch this space...!

The summer term is the traditional time of year that students access work experience. We have worked hard to ensure that all young people had an opportunity to get involved.

Our annual Chester Zoo Summer Youth Volunteering programme is up and running! 4 students from Ancora House School (hospital site) along with 4 young people from our community site have begun an 8-week project working as volunteers at Chester Zoo. They are fully trained to work as volunteers and provided with Chester Zoo uniform! They are supported by fantastic Chester Zoo Youth Champions every step of the way. This is always a very special project and we cannot thank Lindsay, Volunteer Manager and her Team enough for all of the wonderful work they do.

This term several students took part in a bespoke NHS Insight Day – the first of its kind in the country! Students from both sites were given the opportunity to have a day with the training team at the Countess of Chester learning practical nursing techniques, all about radiology, how to prepare for / scrub up for theatre and how to access the 350+ different roles within the NHS. Megan and Molly from the Widening Participation Team were incredibly helpful and so supportive of the event – we thank them and very much hope to run this again next academic year.



In order for all students to have access to Work Experience, a third project was on offer. With support from The Pledge, we were able to offer a real-life event planning project in conjunction with The Red Fox public house. Our students were tasked with planning a wedding with various budget constraints and challenges! We are very grateful to Beth from Brunning & Price for taking the time to offer this virtual work experience, and to James from The Pledge for his work and bringing the opportunity to us.



Well done!

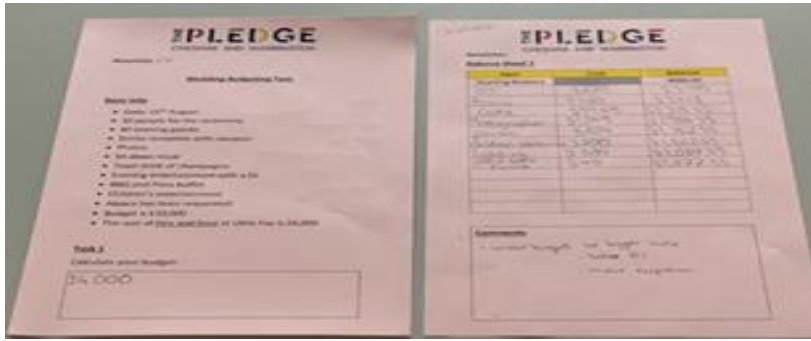
You are now part of the Red Fox Team! Next week I will set you your first event planning assignment via video link on Monday.

On Wednesday I will come to see you in person to see how you are getting on and answer any questions you have.

On Thursday you can send me your ideas.

See you next week!

Beth
Red Fox Brunning and Price



Young Person feedback...

- I learnt about Alpacas and how to care for them. I would also quite like some at my wedding - or if not as house pet!
- I've learnt a lot about events and catering; however, I do not feel that it is the career for me as it is very stressful.
- If I was budgeting for a wedding or an event in the future, I now realise how much work is involved and the importance of having a contingency plan and budget!
- I enjoyed working on the wedding and venue mood boards; it was great fun!
- I loved the idea of planning a wedding and exploring a real-life lovely venue like the Little Fox in Thornton Hough.

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

We wish all students, past and present, well in their next steps and for the summer break.

Ancora House School Education Team

