

# Ancora House School Newsletter

'Building resilience for future success'  
Autumn Term 2023



We've had a busy first term of the year and have enjoyed working with the young people at Ancora House School. Alongside the education programme, our young people have been working with outside providers, including Chester University who have offered sessions on critical thinking and Post 16 options. Gareth Cheeseman has been speaking to young people about key PSHE topics, and Youth Parliament have spoken to the young people about voting and government. We thoroughly enjoyed taking the young people to the Pledge Careers Fair in Ellesmere Port where they had the opportunity to meet employers and further education providers. The young people have also been working with Chester Zoo on a conservation project, the last session of which included a trip to the zoo.

Happy Christmas and all the best for 2024.



## Outdoor Education at Ancora House School

We've spent time researching plants for wildlife during Outdoor Education this term. Learning how to help give different types of garden wildlife an environment to thrive in. It has also been lovely to discuss more world environment topics such as the Antarctic Treaty. We look forward to working with our young people in the New Year, preparing the garden space for spring time.





Wonderful work by a young person on a recent sewing project. They were trying something new and learning new skills.

A beautiful final piece.



## Conservation Project



Chester Zoo have been working alongside our young people this half term on a conservation project. Young people have been looking at environmental concerns, sustainability of products and changes in the natural world. They were fascinated to see some of the objects that were brought as a starting point to look at and consider when discussing key threats to animals such as poaching. Young people were very thoughtful when giving their views and thoughts on the issues discussed. The final session of the conservation project was a trip to Chester Zoo. Young people were given a tour of some of the animal houses and had the opportunity to ask any questions they had about the animals, their habitats and diets.

A big thank you to Mike from Chester Zoo for his work on the project and for showing us around the zoo. 😊



# STEAM

Through our STEAM lessons this half term, we have explored the makeup of planets through experimenting with brusho paints to create different surface effects. We have also used paper to make bowls in a sustainable craft task. We used old maps for this example and we think it looks



fabulous! We have explored forces through experimentation with bottle rockets made from drinking water bottles, and catapults made from lolly sticks. We have enjoyed the competitive element of the longest paper chain challenge! All of these tasks have encouraged the young people to think logically and critically and develop their skills in patience, resilience and perseverance.

**Our amazing artists!!** – In art we have been exploring ideas of identity and what makes up our personalities, what are our values and how are they formed. We have also been exploring the work of Hanah Hock through experimenting with collage. The young people have made their own compositions and we think they've been really successful.



## Careers and Transition

It's been a busy term for careers and transition at Ancora House School. We have continued to work with our wonderful contacts in the community and with their help and support managed to attend and take part in lots of different opportunities linked to Career and Education Transition.

What has been happening so far, this academic year?

- Personal Guidance for each of our young people with Kate and Kerry
- A brand-new weekly workshop 'Skills for Everyday' taking place every week with each ward. Kerry and Chris in education are enjoying developing and delivering these

sessions where they are covering a range of topics and skills to help our young people develop skills they will need in the community. If you think of anything you would like them to cover, Kerry and Chris are happy to build these in to the sessions!

- Apprenticeships Workshops delivered by Ellen from All About STEM ASK Apprenticeships.
- Introduction to Parliament Workshops delivered by Gary from UK Parliament.
- Support on offer in Higher Education delivered by Chantel from Chester University.
- Revision Techniques delivered by Chantel from Chester University.
- Jobs and Workability Workshop delivered by Ali from DWP.
- We attended a Careers Fair at Cheshire College in Ellesmere Port organised by The Pledge Cheshire and Warrington.
- Virtual Work Experience with the support of Bank of America and The Pledge Cheshire and Warrington.
- What is on offer in Further Education workshop by Paul from Wirral Met College.
- PSHE sessions delivered by our teaching team, some of the sessions cover careers and workability skills.

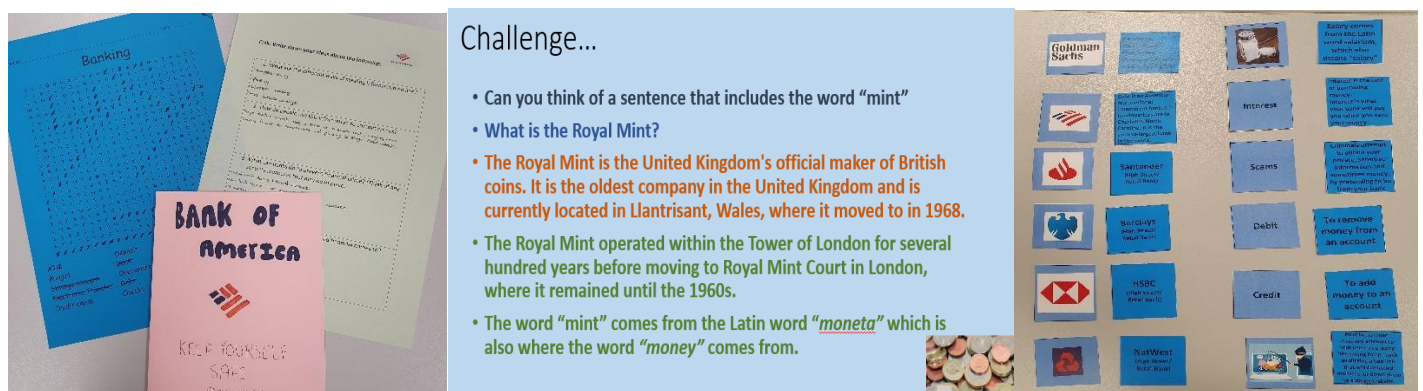
We have enjoyed supporting our young people with Careers and Transitions this term and look forward to the New Year to continue to work with our young people on their careers and transition!

We have lots more careers and transition activities planned for 2024!

Thank you for taking part in everything so far! 😊

## Virtual Work Experience with the Bank of America

All our young people were offered the opportunity to do some virtual work experience with an international company – The Bank of America. Their task was to research and produce an information sheet for customers on the prevention of financial crimes. We started the session with a bit of history about money and how in Roman times people traded with salt as a currency (hence the term salary). We then moved on to look the current climate. The young people already had a lot of knowledge about terms like phishing, smishing and vishing. They were also very savvy about identity theft and how they would advise people to keep themselves safe. It was a great opportunity for everyone involved.

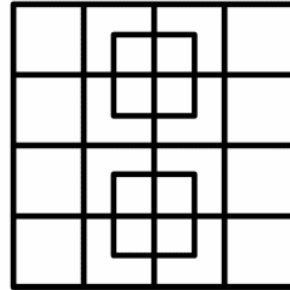


## It's all about the *Christmaths!*

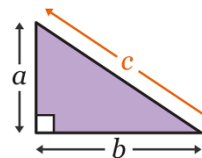
During the Autumn term we have looked at a range of topics in our maths lessons. These have included working with percentages, simplifying expressions, Pythagoras' Theorem (see diagram!) and more recently some Christmaths puzzles. The young people have engaged well and have made great progress. One of my favourite aspects of our group maths sessions is the support and help the young people give each other with the work. It is lovely to see them working both collaboratively and on occasions competitively!

### GEOMETRY RIDDLE

How many squares are in this picture?

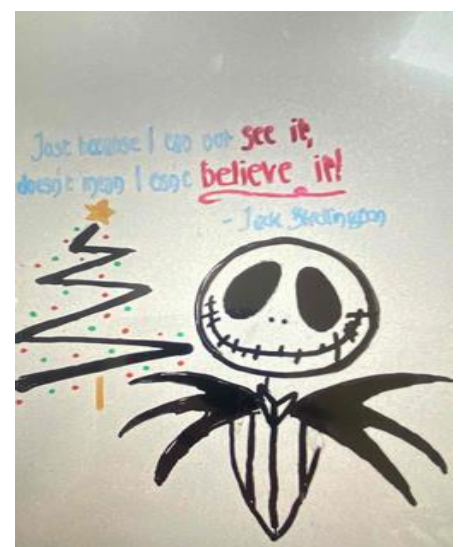
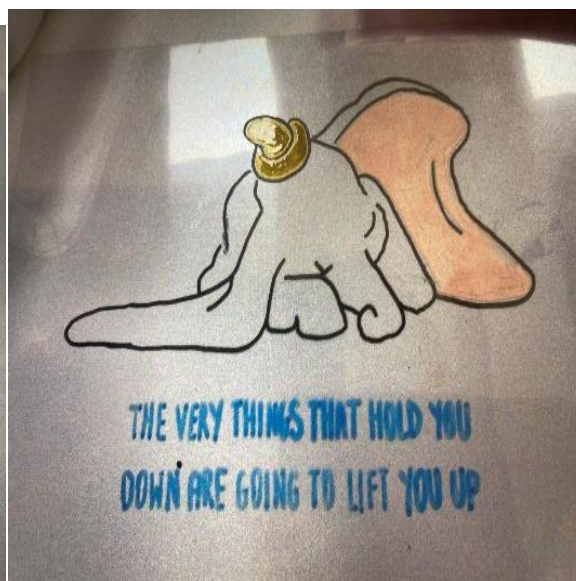
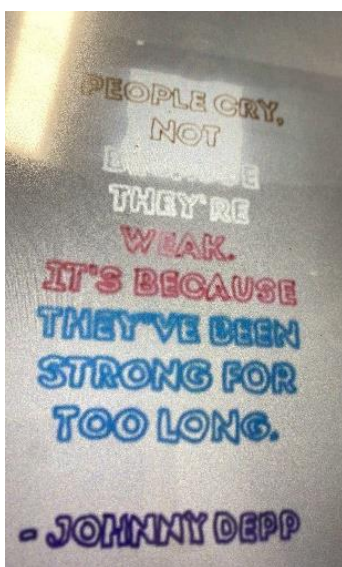


ANSWER = 40



$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2$$

This term in English we have been creating some inspirational quotes on acetate – which the young people then placed on their bedroom windows to draw inspiration from.



If you would like to come and have a look around Ancora House School and meet the team, please contact [amanda.lacey@ancora.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:amanda.lacey@ancora.cheshire.sch.uk) (Deputy Headteacher)



*Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year From all the staff at Ancora House School*

