

SIXTH FORM SPRING TERM NEWS REPORT 2021

Students back in force

Having spent the whole of the first half of the spring term in lockdown, it was somewhat of a relief to get the green light for all students to return – even if most of the Work-ready students could only return three days a week due to work placements being shut. Students were back in force immediately, with attendance running at an impressive 99%, showing how much they had missed being in the Sixth Form! Behaviour and attitude to learning has been brilliant, even though a few students have carried some anxiety about returning. This bodes well for the summer term and for the new school year in September.

New Sixth Form Social Area finally open

One of the plusses of the students returning when they did was that it coincided with the opening finally of the new Sixth Form social area. The new area, which includes a much grander entrance way and a new Sixth Form office, provides comfortable seating for just under 40 students, and nice views out the glass-fronted area towards the rest of the school. Students have welcomed the new area and have already enjoyed the extra space and more relaxed surroundings. We are still waiting for one or two small jobs to be completed such as the water fountain and the carpet in the new area (the rest of the sixth form has already been carpeted throughout). We also hope to add a large smart TV on which can be displayed photos, videos, forthcoming events and exam dates, and some desktop computers and newspapers and magazines.



Another advantage of the new social area is that it can also be used for informal discussions with students, and also break-out learning groups in lesson time.

The social area is going to be a great asset in September when we welcome even more students to the sixth form, and the Student Voice group has already met to discuss what can be done to maximise the potential of this space to make it attractive to students, parents and visitors. Mr Thompson recently did a virtual tour of the Sixth Form for a whole school assembly and for governors.



The new Sixth Form extension, which includes entrance way, new social area and office.

Damon succeeds at outdoor adventure challenge

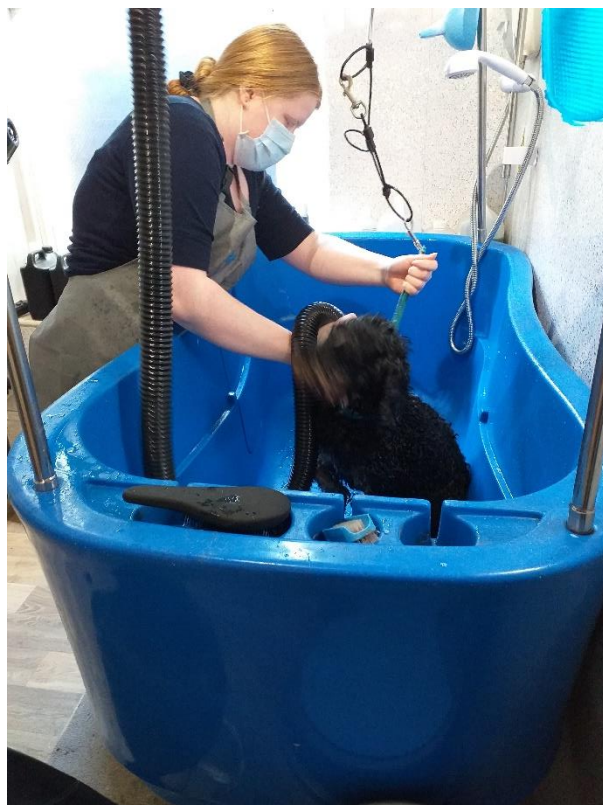
A veteran of Ten Tors Jubilee Challenge, Damon Barlow has been able to take advantage of some essential bespoke work during lockdown on a 1-to-1 basis with a trainer from Adelong Adventure. This has consisted of training activities with map and compass in a variety of locations leading up to assessment for the NNA Bronze Award in navigation. Damon has practised his navigation skills at places as far afield as the coast near Coleton Fishacre, Berry Head, and also Haytor on Dartmoor under the supervision of the trainer, emerging successful with his Bronze Award. In all, Damon spent six days out and about in all weathers gaining the necessary experience instead of attending Life Skills. He is very proud of his achievement!



Damon walking on the coast path

Kiemera has been busy!

Kiemera Clark has been busy bucking the trend of students not being able to attend work placements during lockdown, by not only regularly attending her work placement at Bow Wows dog grooming parlour but, through her own initiative, has started a Level 3 Dog Grooming qualification in partnership with her employer, completing and passing two assessments already! Not only that, Kiemera has been holding down a part-time job at a local Chinese Takeaway. Kiemera obviously does not like the idea of being bored because her endeavours during lockdown do not end there! In between crocheting blankets, doing embroidery projects, making jewellery and die-cast miniatures for painting, she has stripped down and restored an antique desk, covering the top with black faux leather and painting it. Lastly, but by no means least, she has so far written 30,000 words towards a novel she is writing!! Kiemera is a wonderful example of what can be achieved with a positive attitude, a 'can-do' attitude and enthusiasm, and she deserves to be congratulated on her enterprising behaviour. What a fantastic example to others! Well done Kiemera!!



Kiemera hard at work at Bow Wows



Kiemera sanding down her antique desk

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Hi Kiemera,

You passed the Dog Grooming Diploma Module 1 Assessment with a mark of 100%. Well done!

The pass mark was 60%. You can review your grade [here](#) .

Student Voice aims to improve Sixth Form

The Student Voice were quick to convene once we were all back from lockdown, guided by Mrs Dolan.



The group, consisting of Cameron de Groot, Anastasia Bowles, Damon Barlow, Amy Weston, Kiemera Clark, Barrie Setchfield and Tommy Cresswell, came up with a number of thought-provoking suggestions including getting a fish tank for the new sixth form social area, table football for breaks and lunchtimes, some more picnic tables and two new clocks for the social area. These suggestions will be considered in due course, and I'm sure some will be taken up and actioned. The group is pictured outside the new entrance.

Students raise money for Comic Relief

Sixth Form students took a break from their studies recently to raise money for Comic Relief. We held a stand-up comedy club where some very funny jokes were told (and some very bad ones!), egg roulette was a popular way for students to get their own back on staff (Mr Thompson and Mr Choudhury being on the receiving end) plus we held a red hot chilli eating challenge which was won by Tommy Cresswell. After the tensions caused by the pandemic, it was rather therapeutic to take a light-hearted approach and see staff and students laughing together. All in all we raised about £60 in the Sixth Form which was no mean feat. Well done to all concerned for having a go. There is no truth in the rumours that Mr Thompson's jokes were the corniest of all!!

SIXTH FORM STAND UP COMEDY CLUB

RED NOSE DAY

50p As many jokes as you can in 60 seconds!
20p Per extra timer!
10p Per Joke!

FRIDAY 19TH MARCH
BREAK AND LUNCHTIME COMEDY CLUB, RED HOT CHILLI PEPPER EATING & RED CARD EGG ROULETTE CHALLENGE

Participation compulsory for Teachers & Job Coaches!

Jokes must be appropriate!

Showcase your comedy talents and raise money for Comic Relief...

The best 3 jokes win a prize!*

Don't forget to bring in £1 to donate...wear red noses and bring your red noses!

Big opportunity presents itself for Ben

Ben Barker of W2, whose lifelong dream is to become an HGV lorry driver, and who has already passed his car driving test, recently applied for an apprenticeship with HT Gardner, a haulage company dealing with the delivery of pallets across the UK and Europe. The company, which has local depots in Plympton and Exeter, have invited Ben for a two-week trial at the start of the summer term, with a view to taking him on their apprenticeship route. If successful, Ben would spend a year in their Exeter warehouse learning the ropes and taking his fork-lift driver's licence before buddying up with a Class 2 driver on their delivery runs. This would lead to the opportunity to train and pass the Class 2 licence himself, before eventually opening up the opportunity to take his Class 1 licence, which includes articulated vehicles. This is a well deserved and fantastic opportunity for Ben, who has excelled in the Sixth Form in his core subjects of English and Maths. Good luck Ben!



Year 11 students look forward to September

We have received Sixth Form applications from 30 of the current Year 11 cohort of pupils, and I am delighted that following interviews, all 30 have been offered places, either on the Work-Ready pathway, or the Preparation for Working Life pathway, or on the new Supported into Work pathway. Our Sixth Form remains the first choice destination for many of our Post-16 leavers, and is incredibly popular across the board – it is no exaggeration to say that we are full for September. Pictured below are two Year 11 pupils (Jake Williams and Bradley Cox) who have opted for the Hospitality and Catering specialism within the Work-Ready pathway, and hope to make a big impact when they join the Sixth Form in September. Watch this space!



Edward W Thompson
(Head of Sixth Form)