



## AUTUMN 2023 NEWSLETTER



Hello Everyone

It has been an eventful Autumn term and as we approach the Christmas break we want to reflect on some of the amazing experiences and hard work that students and staff have been involved with.

This term has seen new staff and students joining us and settling in well.

There have been lots of interactive Maths learning going on in Jenni's class as students stretch and challenge themselves doing algebra.

In English with Penny some students have written biographies they have put in our new library and all students have had a chance to focus on editing and improving their creative writing using our new Chrome books.

Students have also engaged well in PSHE lessons and are learning how to keep themselves safe in various situations.

We will unfortunately be losing some staff in the new year - Mel our science teacher will be leaving to teach in the primary phase and we will sadly be saying goodbye for a while to Chelsea who will be going on maternity leave soon after we return in the new year - we wish her all the very best and want to thank her for her hard work and dedication she has given to the school - and hope to see her and her baby boy towards the end of January.

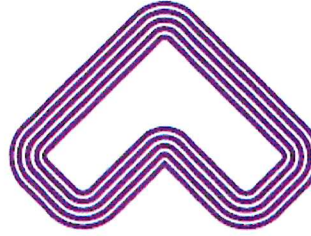
We would like to wish everyone a happy Christmas and we will see students back on Thursday 4th January 2024 — *Claudia*

### Halloween

We had a super spooky Halloween day here at On Track Education. We had a fun-filled morning of



activities which included a Halloween quiz, a potions making class, pumpkin carving and decorating your own chocolate apples. There was a prize for the best carved pumpkin and a prize for the winner of the quiz. Staff and students both got involved in all of the activities and we had the best time! - *Tasha*



**Wisbech**

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### PSHE

This term has been all about personal safety. The children have been having sensible discussions about the risks that surround us all everyday as well as how these risks may begin to develop as we get older. We have covered first aid, drug and alcohol



awareness, sexual health and mental health & wellbeing too. Our PSHE Christmas tree was created with the help of some students, to represent all the things we have spoken about this term, it really is a work of art! - *Karina*

### World Mental Health Day

At the end of October we raised awareness for World Mental Health day by taking part in wellbeing walks to Sandringham where we were joined by some parents and carers. The walks were a fantastic opportunity for us all to connect with one another as well as being out and about in nature. We also took part in the Hello Yellow campaign run by Young Minds and we all wore yellow for the day to raise awareness. It was a great day that got everybody talking and connected! - *Tasha*



## DT Workshop

The DT department has been busy this term with students making a variety of interesting artefacts, including wall clocks, side tables and tea trays. They have used a wide range of skills using only hand tools, including mortise and tenon, dowel joints, pocket hole joinery and hand cut mitre joints using a mitre block. Current projects include a full size wall cabinet, two students are making a chair each, another two are making wall cabinets while another is making a wall shelving unit, we even have one



student making a rocking crib for a member of staff who is soon to have a baby. Some students are now working from a given cutting list and making decisions which joinery techniques best suit whichever artefact that are choosing to make—Harry



## English

This term in English, the kids have done lots of amazing learning.



They have looked at non-fiction, instructional writing and have produced some brilliant instructions to make an apron.

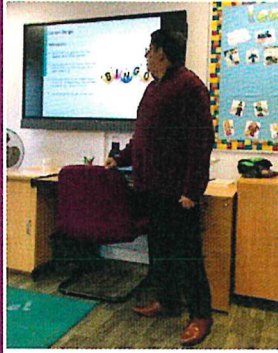
This half term we are writing Christmas themed stories and have been focussing on characterisation, some of our 'baddies'

have been given some truly brilliant names such as Boris the Brussel (He ruins Christmas dinners and replaces everything with sprouts), The Present Pincher and the Wrapping Reaper (who both steal presents). One of these brilliant stories will be made into an On Track Christmas film so watch this space!

Our GCSE students are currently studying 'A Christmas Carol' and are really getting to grips with text analysis - Well done everyone! - Penny

## Careers—Job Centre Visit

On Thursday 30th November we were able to participate in a job centre session here at On Track, with a visitor coming to talk to the learners and answer any questions. In the first session we looked at different career pathways and what learners might want to achieve after education. The second session looked at the skills, experience and paperwork that comes with being employed- including the confusion around national insurance, tax and wage slips!



We had some brilliant comments from the learners in identifying what an employer might look for, and some even better questions that stumped even our visitor! Watch this space- he will be coming back with all your questions answered! - Julie-Anne

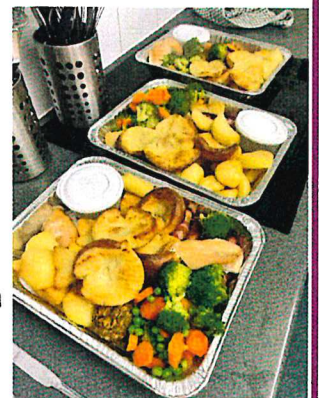
## Horticulture

This term in Horticulture we have been busy making plans for the front of the school area. The children have cleared out the flower beds from last year ready to re-plant them this spring. They have decided what they would each like to have a go at growing and have planted the seeds already! We have also planted some bulbs around the front of the school fence for some beautiful spring time colour—Karina



## Cooking

In cooking this term the students have been exploring British and American foods. They have made a variety of sweet and savoury things. The focus has been on primarily becoming more independent in the kitchen and working on their presenting skills. Recipes they have made include Eton mess, a full English breakfast, mac and cheese cups and sloppy joes, however a firm favourite with the staff was their roast dinners and bonfire night cookies! - Chelsea



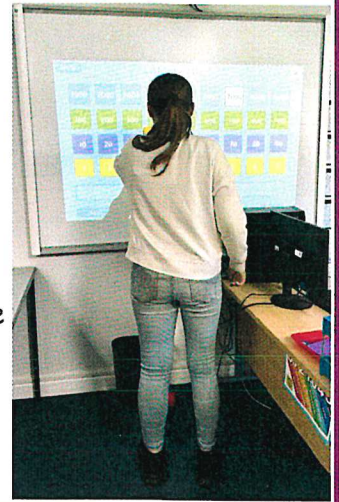
### Bushcraft

Three of our students attend Bushcraft with Richard on a Tuesday afternoon. During this time the children learn about how to survive in the woodlands, this can be from what is safe to eat and what is best to pack to go on an adventure, the children get to sample different types of cooking equipment, all previously used by armed forces. They also get to do things like toasting marshmallows and cooking their favourite foods—Casey



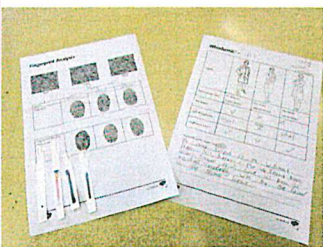
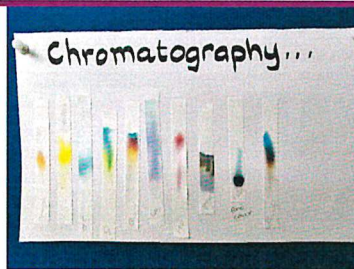
### Maths

In maths this term we have covered everything from equations to algebraic notation and place value. They have had the opportunity to solidify their learning through concrete experiences such as using cubes to build squared and cubed numbers. The children have also proven their times table ability through scavenger hunts around the school and we have even had an equation frog who hopped from answer to answer without falling into the pond! - Jenni



### Science

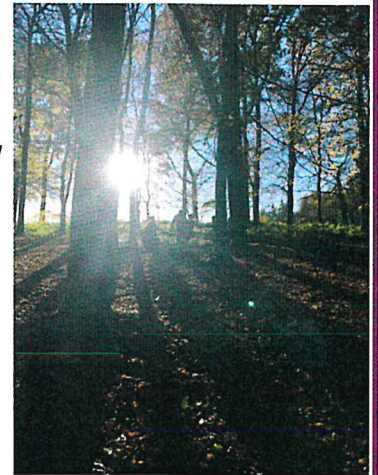
Students have been learning about scientific investigation this term. A highlight was solving a crime by analysing fingerprints



of suspects compared to fingerprints found at the scene and carrying out chromatography on the ink found in the three suspects pens compared to an ink sample from a note left at the scene of the crime—Mel

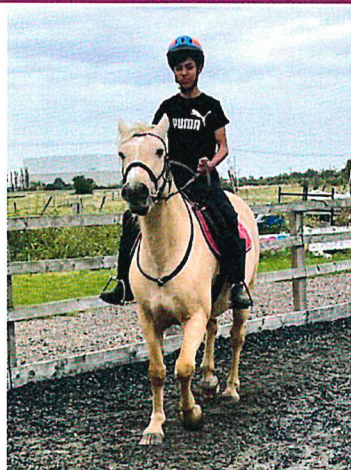
### OCL

This term we embarked on a new adventure over at the Wildlings in Heacham. The Wildlings is a new forest school to On Track. We encourage the students to explore and use their imagination through play. The children have free reign over the area available whether that be digging mud holes, going down the hill on a go kart, using the flack line or helping cook on the fire! We hope that more students will enjoy the forest school during the upcoming terms—Capreece



### Horse Riding

This term several students have made the most of the opportunity to go horse-riding as part of their timetable. Students spend Wednesday mornings at Fenland Equestrian Centre, where they are learning the skills to complete a qualification in Equestrian Care. It has been amazing to watch their skills and confidence grow every week as they get stuck into every activity, from grooming and tacking up their horses to mucking out the stables! - Carys



### LEGO Wellbeing

During our sessions the students have been making some complicated Lego sets. We have been working on our team work skills, problem solving and eye contact with each other. We enjoy having lots of different conversations with each other and working as a team and building friendships in our groups—Joana



### Therapy Dog Visit

We had a visit from Debbie who works as a volunteer for Therapy Dogs Nationwide. Debbie brought her therapy dog, Bran with her. Bran is a beautiful Bernese mountain dog and he weighed just over 8 stone! The students had the chance to meet Bran in the morning and had lots of cuddles and fun - with some students even getting the chance to read Bran a lovely story book—*Tasha*



### Fens Falconry

This half term the students also had the amazing opportunity to learn about birds of prey from the fabulous team at Fens Falconry. The children learnt about the different features of the birds of prey and how this helps them hunt and survive. The children then got the chance to hold and interact with the birds. The falconry centre offers many opportunities to volunteer and even have an apprenticeship scheme, which, with our newly formed relationship could be an excellent opportunity for some of our students in the future! - *Penny*



### Sports

This half term some children have been attending the gym, working on their cardio, fitness and weights. The other children have been given the opportunity to experience many different physical activities including football, golf and even footgolf! The children have really enjoyed these experiences, and one of them even managed to drive a ball 200 yards which is over 182 metres—*Jenni*



**Football Match**—On 24th November On Track Wisbech football team travelled to On Track Mildenhall for the first fixture of the season. The weather was bright and dry so the team were feeling positive and upbeat. The match got off to a flying start with both teams battling hard. Wisbech's newest and youngest student Tomi clinched his first goal of the game early on which led to a spiral of goals to follow. Midfielder Darren also grabbed two cracking goals which Hercules himself would have struggled to stop. Ralfie G wasn't about to come away empty handed either and emerged from the back to bag himself two goals. The defence was as solid as ever, with Tex (c) and Spencer providing an iron wall in support of keeper Dylan (vc) who came away with a clean sheet! The whole team battled hard. Tex the team captain led the team to a 10-0 victory. Special awards went to:  
Spencer: Staff Player Award  
Tomi: Goal of the Match Award  
Ralfie: Players Player Award—*Gemma*



### Farm

For those that attend the farm it has been a busy term with lots of various activities taking place. Some of the children have been helping to do brickwork, building a pizza oven and a new fire pit. Others spend more time with the craft activities



which has included pumpkin carving at Halloween and some Christmas lanterns recently. The children also have the opportunity to work with the animals, feeding and caring for them, as well as creating games for them such as obstacle courses—*Karina*