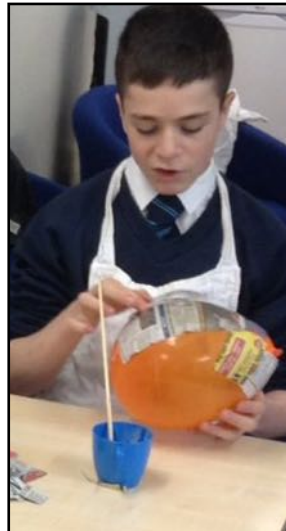


WELCOME to the first edition of our new school newspaper. This edition has been written by Years 7 and 8 Nurture students at Blackburn Heights School. It contains information about the many activities that there have been at Blackburn Heights since Easter. We hope you enjoy reading all about our school.



Nurture students created Fabergé eggs by sticking pieces of newspaper onto a balloon and then we put ModRoc on it. When dry, we painted them.

Tasty lessons

by Szymon Junker

THERE are lots of opportunities to improve our cookery skills here at Blackburn Heights.

In the last half term we have made St George's cakes, potato cakes, stained glass biscuits and cakes.

The Nurture group gets to cook every Wednesday morning in the Food Tech Room.

Teaching assistant Sushannah Courtney said: "It is important to learn cookery skills so that our students know how to cook in later life."

We also have four nurture staff: Sushannah, Tina Hulme, Emma Zollnar and Cheryl Hamilton who have

completed their level 2 food safety course.

When I made the stained glass biscuits we cut a hole in the biscuit mix and we put sweets in the middle. When it cooked in the oven the sweet melted and it looked like stained glass. I knew it would work because they would not have given us a recipe that did not work.

The thing I most enjoy about cookery is eating it afterwards. I had never cooked a thing in my life so it's been a new experience having cookery lessons in school and I decided to give it a try.

I am really pleased with what I've achieved, but I have not yet learnt enough skills to cook at home.



Hike-ho students tackle national Bronze award

by Caitlin Duval

STUDENTS at Blackburn Heights got the opportunity to do their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

A group of students have just completed the expedition part of their award.

Lead Outdoor Education Instructor Dave Stafford said: "The students gain life skills and it allows them to take the scheme forward after they finish at our school if they want to."

"The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme gives the students the chance to set themselves goals over a period of 3-6 months to improve their life skills so they can work as a team and gain confidence."

There are different parts to the award.

Skills is where they learn a different sport for 13 hours and our students chose badminton.

Voluntary is where the students completed 13 hours of one-to-one work to help nurture students succeed on their day out.

In physical the students completed 26 hours over six months and they mountain biked all over the North-West.

Dave said: "The training section was where they learnt how to put up and take down tents and also how to

be safe around gas stoves and cooking. This improved their map reading skills and orienteering.

"Then they completed the expedition section where they went on a nine-mile walk to a campsite while carrying all equipment."

"They walked from Tockholes Car Park to Bibbs Scout Farm in Chorley and then spent a night on a campsite."

"They cooked their own food and slept over night before returning to school the next day."

The students that completed their Bronze were: Harry Smalley, Jordan Tanner, Reece Slater, Rhys Harrison and Mark Frith.

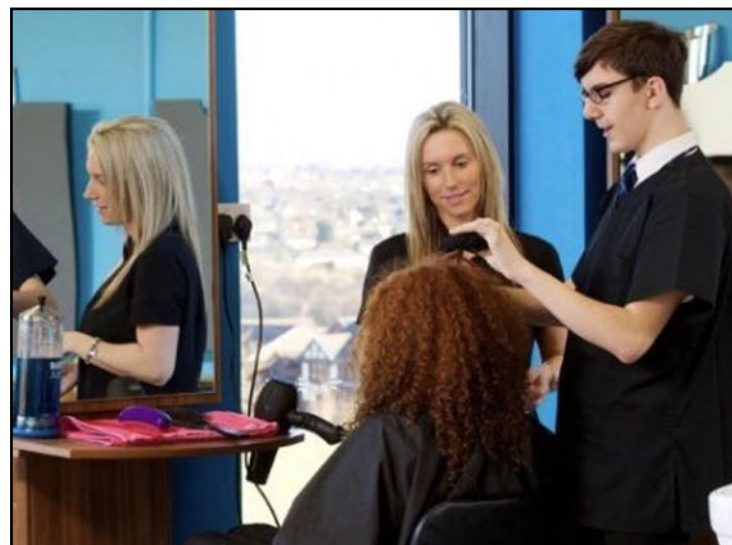
Dave added: "Doing the Duke of Edinburgh is important because it helps to boost self-esteem and confidence and it gives the students a sense of achievement and it also prepares them for when they leave school."



We get to try out lots of different sports in PE. There's table tennis, badminton, football, basketball and hockey but by far the most popular sport in school is football.



Superb facilities in our construction department and our hair and beauty salon mean that Blackburn Heights students can get practical experience of work before they leave school.



Pupils' key role in staff appointments

by Taylor Ainsworth

WHEN new staff are appointed at Blackburn Heights they are also interviewed by a Pupil Panel.

CEIAG Co-ordinator Cathi Sherratt said: "I arranged for a panel of pupils to do a 10 minute interview with candidates in one of the classrooms.

"I get the pupils' opinions of new staff and they have a list of questions to put to each of the candidates."

The pupils on the panel were Jack Bolton, Oliver Church Midgley, Jordan Tanner and Courtney Simpson.

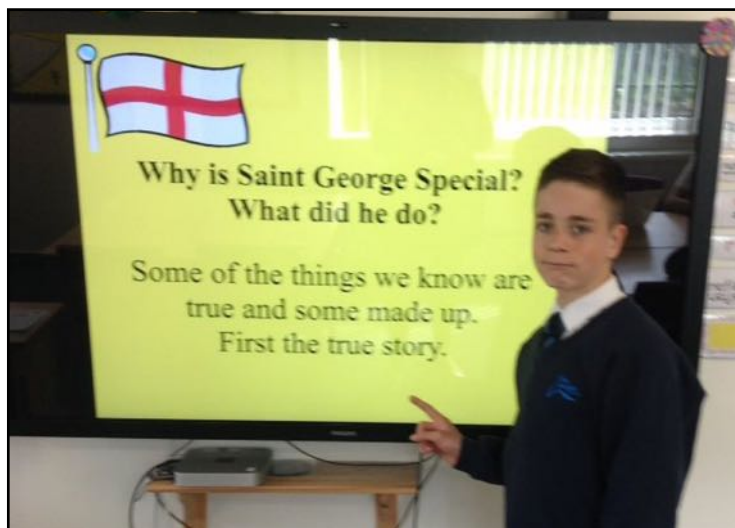
Cathi added: "The panel were good and they helped our Headteacher Gary Holding to make the right choice.

"As a school it is good practice to use pupils to help with employing new members of staff.

"It makes the pupils feel empowered because they are assisting the head to make the right decision."



We celebrated England's Patron Saint with a host of different activities at Blackburn Heights. St George's Day was on Monday April 23 and so we were all in school. We learnt the true story of St George and we also examined some myths in a special lesson. We also cooked St George cakes and sewed special St George flags.



Thrilling reward day

by Harley Johnson

DOING well at our school means we get excellent rewards.

Key Stage 4 students went to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for a full day when they got to go on rides and visit the arcades.

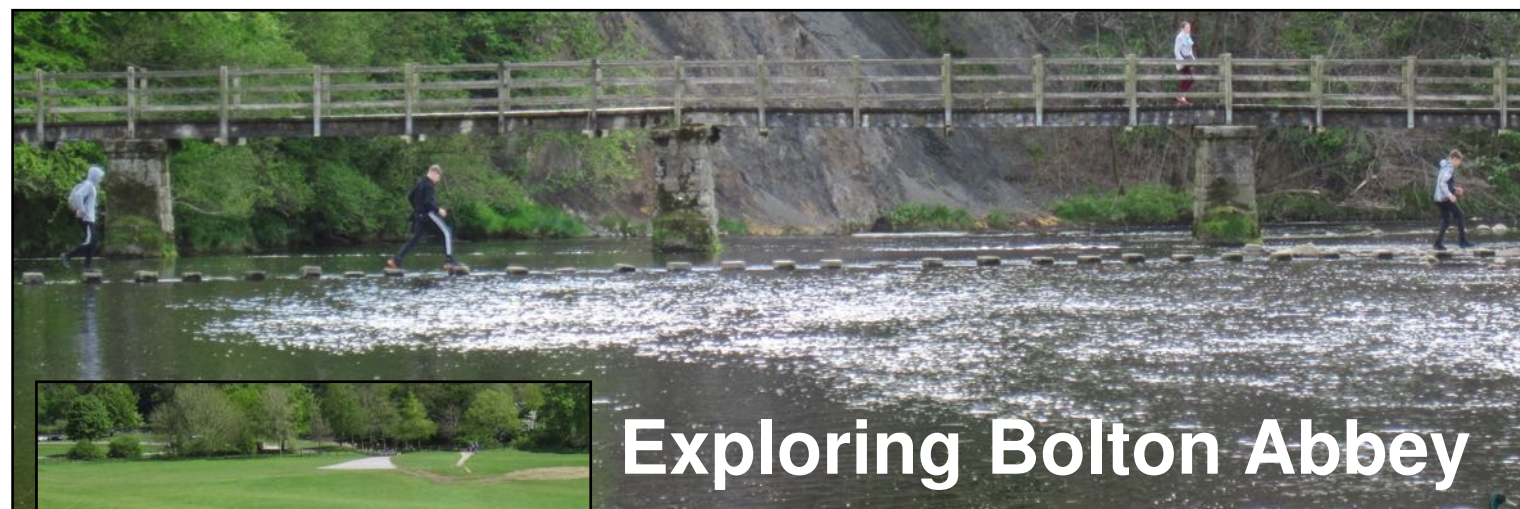
Liam Cookson said: "I loved it. I enjoyed the full day and I didn't want to leave.

"I went on Valhalla, the Pepsi Max, the PlayStation and log flume

and in the Arcade. I would definitely go again but next time I would like to go Go-Karting."

The Pleasure Beach was selected as the reward trip because it was the most fun place the school could think of and the majority of students chose to go there.

Safeguarding Lead Rob Kershaw said: "Ten students were chosen from Years 9,10 and 11 because they were the best behaved and they had the most points on e-Praise."



Exploring Bolton Abbey

by Hafiza Bibi

NURTURE students got the chance to go walking at Bolton Abbey in Skipton, North Yorkshire.

We were lucky that the weather was on our side and the sun was shining.

It was good getting out with our Outdoor Education Instructors Paul Normanton and

Dave Stafford and they kept our spirits high on our lovely walk.

Lead instructor Dave said: "I take different Heights students everyday so that they can learn new life skills and teambuilding activities to teach them to work together.

"It helps students with individual fitness and also gives them the opportunity to experience different

areas of beauty and to visit a historical building."

Whilst at Bolton Abbey students also had the chance to challenge themselves to cross the stepping stones and to explore the surrounding area of the River Wharfe.

They even got to taste wild garlic.

I thought it was a good opportunity for me to learn more.