

Mrs Buley—Interim Principal

We've made it to the end of another term!

Although the weather today is not very Spring like, hopefully we can all enjoy some drier weather over the break.

Luckily, the wet weather did not dampen the spirits of the primary pupils on their exciting trip to Legoland this week. Pupils participated in a workshop learning about how forces help rollercoasters to run, before spending time exploring the wider park. When they returned, pupils were keen to share the rides they had been on, and we are so proud of them all for their fantastic efforts on the day.

This cohort's 'Improving Teaching Programme' has now finished, with a final session about mindsets and the power of a growth mindset. There were lots of discussions with colleagues from across Liberty Academy Trust as we shared practice and suggestions on how to support our learners in developing their self-belief and confidence.

In school council this week, it was great to share results from our recent pupil surveys, as we seek to discover how we can continue to improve the school and our provision with their views at the forefront. Pupils discussed some questions in depth, considering kindness towards other as well as how easy or difficult individuals may find it to make friends. There were some very insightful comments, however school council agreed that they wanted some further details from pupils to aid their action planning, which they will be seeking after the break.

Year 10 have received their mock examination timetables this week, and will be supported to undertake these exams from week commencing 22nd April. We will also be working with both our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils to ensure they have tools and strategies to support them through examination season, but please do reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for all of your ongoing support over the last term.

Wishing you all a restful (and egg-cellent!) break, and we look forward to seeing you all on our return on 15th April.

Best wishes,

Mrs Buley



Pupil Awards

This academic year, in addition to the weekly awards we will be celebrating three pupils each term who have been nominated by staff for consistently demonstrating exceptional standards to our school principles.

We are pleased to announce that this term's winners are:

Thoughtful – Daniel Wright has been awarded this term for always being well mannered and polite to adults as well as friendly and helpful towards his peers.

Value – Miles Gauguier has been awarded this term for consistently working hard and putting in an amazing amount of effort with his learning.

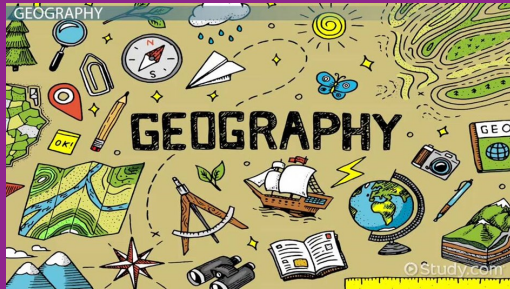
Safe – Nicolas Wojcik-Tomas has been awarded this term for consistently improving his self-awareness and following instructions from adults.

A huge congratulations to these 3 pupils and Year 11 from all the staff.

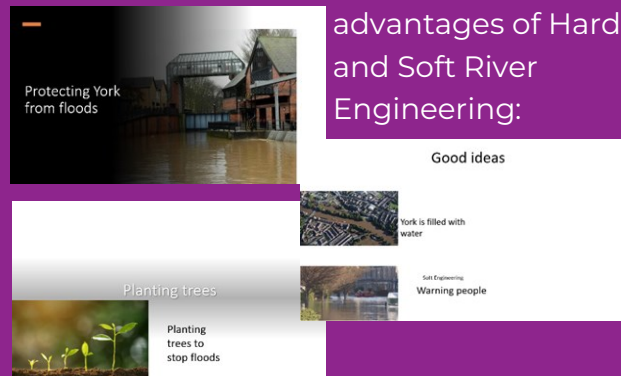
March 2024

Humanities Updates

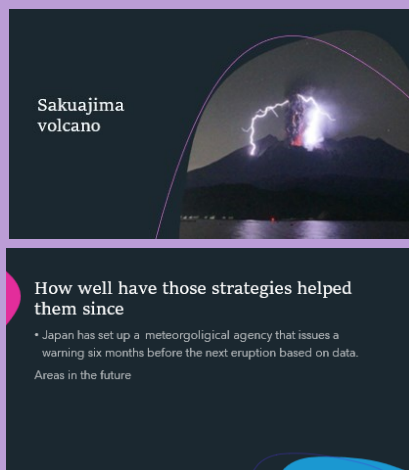
This half term, Secondary Geography classes have got stuck in with their topics on Rivers and Natural Hazards.



Year 7 classes Orion and Pyxis have been making posters, leaflets and PowerPoint presentations to persuade people on the advantages of Hard and Soft River Engineering:



Year 8 classes Draco and Aquila have been evaluating the impacts of tectonic hazards using case studies :

Mt Merapi explosion 25th October – 30th November 2010

- 1) Lava flowed 3km away from the crater, plumes of ash rose 1.5km into the sky, 353 people died, 200,00 people were made homeless because of the eruption and ash fell 30km from the crater.
- 2) The Government supported the people living nearby by giving the homeless a place to stay, supported families effected by this eruption.
- 3) I think the strategies used were helpful to the people harmed by Mt. Merapi
- 4) I think something that could be done better is if people are given replacements to the damage done or money to help people harmed.

This is the difference between Mt. Merapi [2010] when it Erupted and Present time [2024].



Year 9 Taurus and Year 10 Lynx have been working on their Personal Projects and Fieldwork Notebooks to achieve their Entry Level Qualification



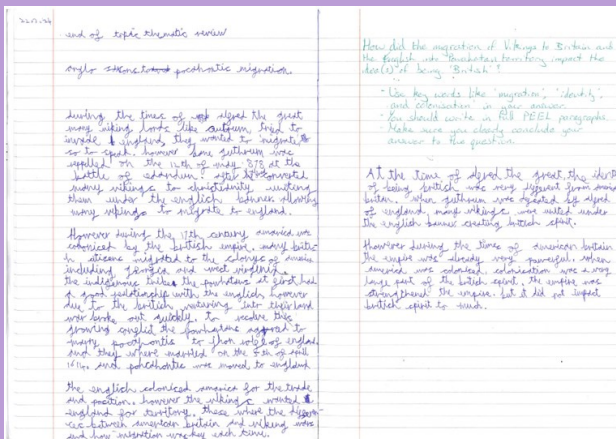
Major risks in megacities

In this PowerPoint, We will go over crime rate, earthquakes, cost of living, social inequality and pollution.



March 2024

In our Pathways History class, they have finished the first topic of the GCSE and so have been doing a breadth thematic study of the topic:



Next half term, each class will be moving on to a new topic.

Year 7 classes will be looking at Migration – the reasons why people migrate and the impacts of migration.



Year 8 classes will be looking at Development – using Reading city centre as an example of urban development.

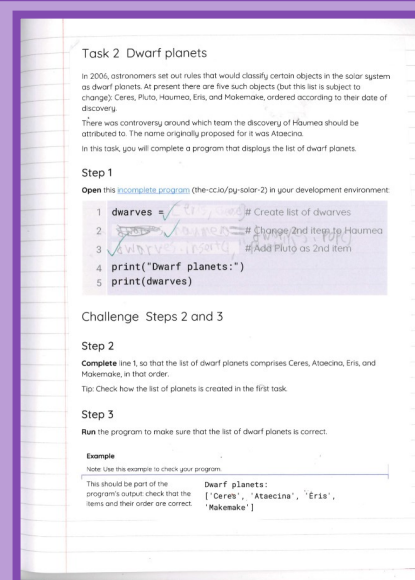


Year 9 and 10 Geographers will be making their final preparations to hand in the Entry Level portfolios.



Year 9 and 10 Historians will move on to their new topic: Elizabethan England!





All About Me - TVS Governors

Dear Parents, Carers and Community of Thames Valley School,

I am delighted to introduce you to the members of TVS' local committee and below we have all provided you with a simple biography. I'm especially pleased to have welcome two new parent members and one from the community.

We are committed to open and transparent governance, and we would like to hear from you if you can offer a sounding board to the principal and wider school leadership, encouraging positive communication between the staff, pupils and families.

Members of the committee are part of the school's wider leadership and are advocates of the school and community. They make a meaningful contribution to the committee by:

- Collaborating to provide the best quality educational experience for TVS' young people
 - Attending meetings, reading papers, and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
 - Establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the committee
 - Getting to know the school, including visiting the school during school hours
 - Undertaking induction training and engaging in ongoing development
- Representing the different communities, the school serves.

Members are assigned roles in respect of their interests and background, taking account of how school leaders:

- Deliver an education for our children that meets their needs, aspirations and interests and which prepares them for adulthood
 - Ensure that the vision, ethos and strategic direction of Liberty Academy Trust is maintained and developed
- Promote positive parent, community and stakeholder engagement and partnerships for improvement.

Members are required to attend a meeting each half-term as well as school visits to meet with staff and pupils. Meetings are currently held during the school day and alternate between face-to-face and virtual meetings across the year.

If you would like further information about joining the committee, please contact us on governance@libertytrust.org.uk or contact the school office.

With good wishes for a restful Easter break.

Chris Rossiter
Committee Chair

All About

Chris Rossiter, Director of Governance

Awesome Activity

My favourite activities usually involve my dog (Dolly) or cycling on my bike. I love being by the sea and walking with Dolly on the beach.

Favourites

Colour - **Green**
 Sport - **Cycling**
 Food - **Sushi**
 Subject - **Science**

Music

I like dance, rock and hip-hop - anything loud!

Picture Perfect



Best Book

My favourite childhood book was 'The Hobbit' by JRR Tolkien

My Hero

My grandad who taught me to ride a bike.

Movie

Little Shop of Horrors 1986 - nearly as old as me!

Some Facts

When I'm not riding my bike or walking my dog, I love growing plants. Last year I went to New Zealand where they have lots of weird and wonderful plants, like the silver fern and the manuka tree, where honey of the same name comes from. We grow flowers and veggies in our garden too.

All About

Nic Law - Director of Safeguarding

Awesome Activity

I love spending time with my family, my pugs and going on fun holidays! I especially love visiting Walt Disney World in Florida!

Favourites

Colour - **Green**
 Sport - **Ice Skating**
 Food - **Doughnuts** (but gluten free!)
 Subject - **Art or textiles**

Music

I like relaxing music - anything 'low-fi'

Picture Perfect



Best Book

My favourite childhood book was 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' by Roald Dahl

My Hero

My parents! They are wonderful people who always show kindness and love to others

Movie

'Blade Runner: The Directors cut' (I'm a bit of a movie geek!). I did enjoy the most recent 'Wonka' movie with Timothee Chalamet

Some Facts

I was born in Great Yarmouth in Norfolk - I enjoy the countryside and riding horses. I used to be a professional Ballroom and Latin American Dancer but gave up in my late-teens - I should have stuck with it, I could have been on strictly! I love working with children and young people and have done so since 2002. One of my first 'proper' jobs was working at Thorntons - I loved eating all the chocolates! I love animals, space, theme-parks, dancing and trying new types of food!

All About

Hannah Padgham

Awesome Activity

Getting out of bed in the morning when I don't want to

Favourites

Colour - **Purple**
 Sport - **Walking**
 Food - **Victoria Sponge cake**
 Subject - **Science & History**

Music

Chilled music

Picture Perfect



Best Book

Any Crime Thriller genre

My Hero

Margaret Sanger

Movie

Impossible to choose...lots of them 🍿

Some Facts

- I have 2 teenage children, one attends TVS
- I love listening to geeky podcasts to get to sleep
- I work with Volunteers at Guide Dogs and meet some amazing people (& dogs)
- I'm self-diagnosed Autistic, I only figured this out 5 years ago and I'm on a looonngg waiting list for assessment
- I try to prioritise my mental health above everything else

All About

Astrid Colquhoun - Governor

Awesome Activity

- Making home made bread
- Narrow boating
- Canoeing on the Thames
- Doing stuff as a family

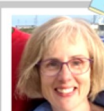
Favourites

Colour - **Purple**
 Sport - **Sailing**
 Food - **Fried Mushrooms on toast**
 Subject - **Science**

Music

Shania Twain

Picture Perfect



Best Book

'A Terrible Kindness' by Jo Browning Wroe

My Hero

It has to be my lovely husband! He will always go the extra mile to support and help out.

Movie

The Thomas Crown Affair - a bit old (1999) but still a great movie!

Some Facts

I was born at home in Fairbairn, near Southampton. After nearly 30 years of moving around (including a short stint in East Africa and Northern Ireland) I settled in Reading after joining Thames Water as an Engineer over 25 years ago. My son joined TVS about a year and a half ago and is loving it! As a family we are members of Greyfriars Church in Reading while home life includes 4 cats and 3 chickens (so far).



Year 10 Mock Timetable – April/May2024

All Pupils

	Monday 22 nd	Tuesday 23 rd	Wednesday 24 th	Thursday 25 th	Friday 26 th
AM	English Language Reading	English Language Writing	Biology Paper 1		Mathematics Paper 3
PM		Mathematics Paper 1 (non-calculator)		Mathematics Paper 2 (calculator)	Geography ELC
Weekend 27 th – 28 th April					
	Monday 29 th	Tuesday 30 th	Wednesday 1 st	Thursday 2 nd	Friday 3 rd
AM	Physics Paper 1		Catering Computer Science Paper 1	Computer Science Paper 2	Physics paper 2
PM		Chemistry Paper 1			
Weekend 4 th – 5 th May					
	Monday 6 th	Tuesday 7 th	Wednesday 8 th	Thursday 9 th	Friday 10 th
AM		Biology Paper 2			
PM	Chemistry Paper 2				



Student Executive Team



18/03/2024

The Liberty Student Executive Team is a student run group across the three schools which form Liberty Academy Trust. The team meet a minimum of three occasions per year with Thames Valley School, Vanguard School and Church Lawton School alternating the role of hosting the meetings.

Attendees: AAI, MCo, Vanguard representatives & Church Lawton representatives

Agenda 1: Update on Actions:

- Students discussed the school environment and Thames Valley School reported they were satisfied with the school building. They discussed upcoming maintenance work and how we can keep our school fit for purpose and looking nice.
- Discussed internal locks on doors and the benefits and barriers they present. Thames Valley representatives discussed how they believe they are helpful and highlighted their use in areas such as primary and the dining hall. They spoke about the benefit of having access to the corridors in the Year 10 & 11 area.
- Behaviour flowcharts were discussed across the three schools and similarities and comparisons were drawn. Thames Valley School shared their use of their behaviour flowchart and how it allows consistency and understanding across the school for students and staff.



Agenda 2: Student Views:

• **Liberty Vision Statement**

'To deliver an education for our children that meets their needs, aspirations and interests, and which prepares them well for adulthood'

- A discussion was held around the statement. The three schools agreed on the positives of the statement, but did discuss how the vision should perhaps expand to include maintenance of these standards and the importance of making stepping stones for our young people before they move on from school.



School Improvements

- The schools discussed certain budgets and school improvement opportunities and Thames Valley School shared their experience of the Sensory Zone being built and what uses and benefits that is having.

Agenda 3: Celebrations and successes:



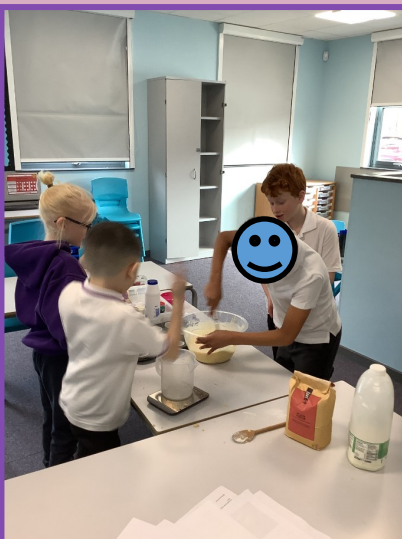
- Church Lawton School discussed their reward shop and the success of it since it started in September.
- Thames Valley School discussed their shield system and how you can use shields to redeem reward items or time spent to enjoy a reward activity.



Next Meeting: 14th May hosted by Thames Valley School!

March 2024

*Coffee & Cake A fundraiser for Autism
Berkshire*



TDT Update

School Council News

In recent school council news...
Attendees: EGa, DUV, CDu, CCo, HPA, MGA, GPe, CKn
Chairpersons: Miss Johnston, Mrs Buley & Mrs Dudgeon
Guests: Jo Galloway

School council members discussed how we can improve our pupil survey scores in 4 areas...

- How kind pupils are to their peers
- How easy it is for pupils to make friends
- How often pupils feel stressed
- How much pupils enjoy learning

How kind are you to other children?

- Encouraging kind words - should be a standard of behaviour with actions towards others
- Tutor time sessions that involve practising kindness
- TDT to deliver a session that links our thoughtful principle to kind behaviour
- More sessions with TDT about finding replacement behaviours when frustrated with others
- Give pupils examples of how to be kind to each other
- Giving out more checks for kind behaviour towards others

How easy is it for you to make friends?

- TDT sessions to help learn and practice skills for making friends
- Pupils to work with Miss Johnston on creating a survey to find out more
- Create more links between the Liberty Academy Trust schools e.g. visits & tours
- Opportunities to meet pupils from other local schools e.g. football/badminton tournaments
- Club examples: Interest, Crochet, Art/Crafts, School Council
- Change some of the lunch clubs to encourage new friendships

How often have you been stressed lately?

- Exploring more regulation tools
- Balancing different pupils needs
- More keyworker sessions - updates to one-page profiles to help share what works for staff.

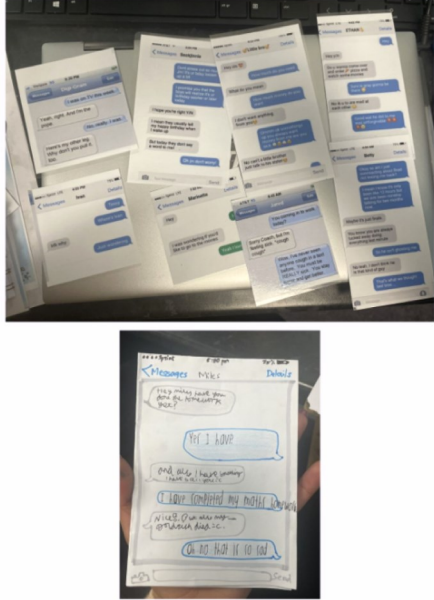
How much do you enjoy learning?

- One 'no learning day' per term to support stamina
- Pupils to work with Miss Johnston to create a survey about making learning more fun
- Varying how lessons are delivered
- Keeping enrichment week!

😊 ☹️ ☹️ ☹️

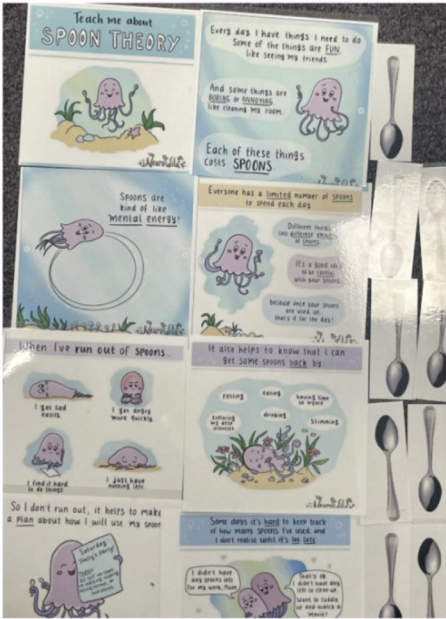
Speech & Language

Year 10's have been looking at decoding text messages and making up conversations to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate texting/responses with friends.



Speech & Language

This week some pupils have been discussing spoon theory to understand how much 'mental energy' they are using each day and how to replenish when they're low on spoons!




Occupational Therapy

Easter Yoga - Incorporate yoga poses inspired by Easter themes (like bunny hops or egg stretches) to help children practice self-regulation and body awareness.

Below are some ideas from <https://www.kidsyogastories.com/easter-yoga-poses-game/>


Pretend to be a Chick or Duck - Squat Pose

How to practice Squat Pose: Come down to a squat with your knees apart and bend your arms, pretending they are the wings of a duck. Then try waddling and quacking like a duck.



Pretend to be an Easter Egg - Egg Pose

How to practice Egg Pose: Balance on your buttocks while hugging your knees to your chest. Pretend to be an Easter Egg.



Occupational Therapy

The Easter Holidays are a great opportunity for all pupils to relax, focus more on their hobbies, and develop their skills through these. Please find below some ideas for OT Easter Activities!

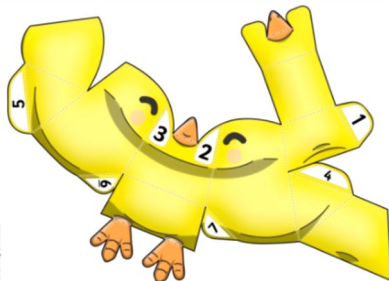
Easter bunny craft



Using very few materials, they can be made into masks and used in imaginary play or displayed in a way that will create some Easter cheer.

You will need:
Paper plate x 2
Sticky tape or school glue
Decorative paints, pens etc.
Paper
Pom pom (or Cotton Wool)
Pipe cleaner
Scissors

- Simply begin by cutting one of the paper plates in half. These two halves will become the ears.
- Before attaching the paper plate ears to the face, you might like your child to decorate both plates however they like.
- Once the paper plates are dry then your child can go about attaching the two paper plate halves to the back of the other paper plate, see above.
- Then the pipe cleaner whiskers, pom pom nose and cut out paper eyes can be added with glue. It really is that easy and oh so adorable.



Encourage children to plan and execute an Easter craft, which can help develop their organization, sequencing, and problem-solving skills.

Occupational Therapist - Anastsios Kofonikolas

"The Easter Holidays have finally arrived! It is a great opportunity for all pupils to relax, focus more on their hobbies, and develop their skills through these. Please find attached a link for an OT Easter Activity Pack with a variety of Easter activities that pupils can engage with"

Click onto the following link for some Easter activities

<https://edgexec.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Edge-Easter-Activity-Book.pdf>

New Date for Year 8 Immunisations 22nd May

Dates for the dairy

- 15th Apr - Pupils return to school
- 22nd Apr - 12th May - Year 10 Mocks
- 22nd Apr - World Earth Day

Happy Easter

Wishing all our families a lovely half term!

