



SECONDARY NEWS

A half-termly Newsletter from the Secondary Department at Marjory Kinnon School

SPRING 1 2020

LS1



This half term, LS1 have been working really hard in English. We have been reading 'Pugs of the Frozen North' as part of our Power of Reading project. It is an exciting adventure story which has really captured our imaginations. We have been using a lot of drama to help us explore situations, characters, opinions and decisions and have used this to write in role as a variety of different characters using the first person. We have had a debate about whether or not pugs should pull a sled across the Arctic ice, explored the similarities and differences between different characters and used a range of effective language techniques to add interest and detail to our writing. LS1 have worked really hard this half term and their enthusiasm for the story has been infectious. Well done, LS1.



LS2

LS2's library session is a wonderful time for sharing stories. The pupils all chose their favourite books and explained to the class why they would recommend them to others.

Quotes from the students:

"They shrink so they can fit in a sandcastle"

"It is about robots"

"Gran is cross"

"Children make mess"

"The boom slang snake is dangerous, it is an exciting story".

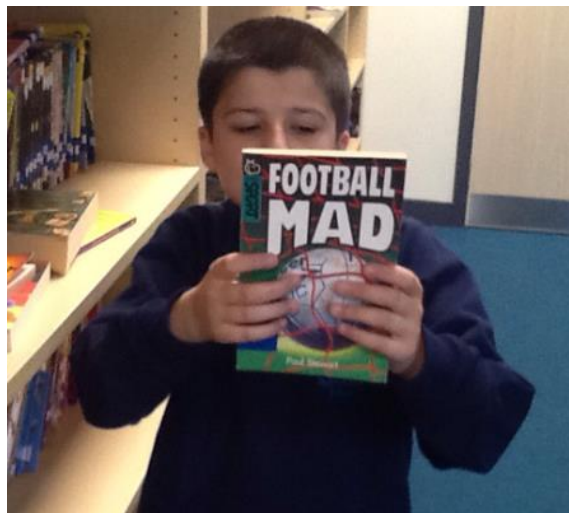
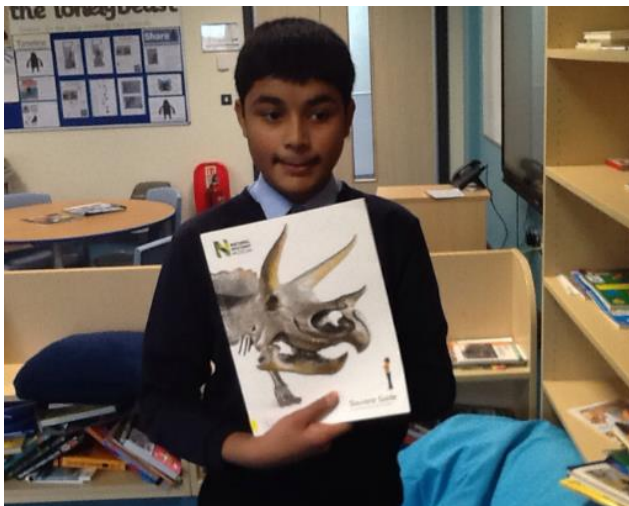
"It is funny"

"It's about secrets"

"There are bugs and wasps that chase them"



What is your favourite book and why?

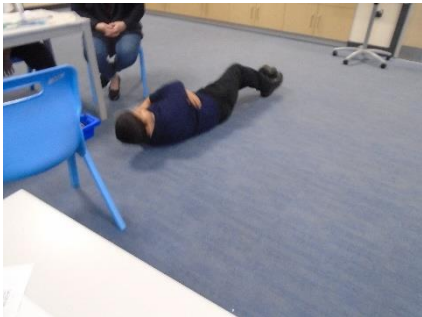


LS3

It's been another action-packed half term in LS3!

In English, we have thoroughly enjoyed reading our class book *Moth* by Isabel Thomas and Daniel Egnéus. As the text is set in both the city and the countryside, it has inspired us to create some non-fiction writing; a leaflet advertising either a city or country-based holiday destination. Not only does the work look beautiful but the quality of writing is outstanding. Here are some parts of Matthew and Rohan's work:

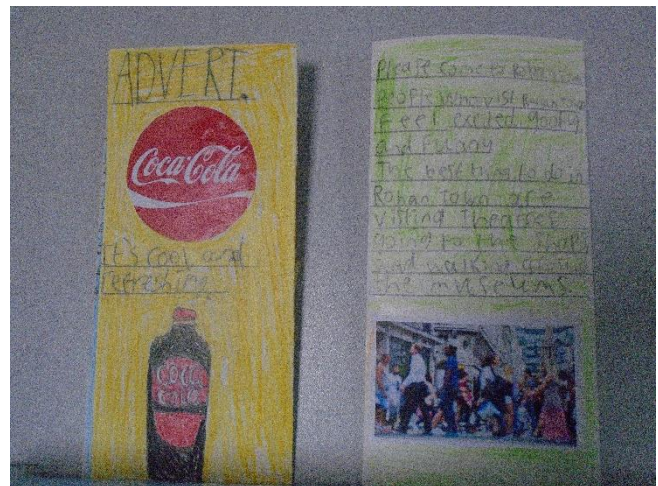
In Life Skills, we have been studying the emergency services. This has led to us learning



about all different aspects of day-to-day safety. One particular

highlight was a lesson when we learnt the 'stop, drop and roll' technique to put out a fire. We all enjoyed trying this out – especially Elhaam, who

loved rolling around on the floor!



LS4

This spring, LS4 have been studying a non-fiction text called 'Moth'. In English, we have been learning a range of different facts about moths. We have looked closely at how moths have adapted over time, focusing in particular on how moths were affected during the Industrial Revolution. Pupils in LS4 have enjoyed investigating the advances in technology during this time period and have written an information report on inventions they like i.e. the steam engine.



LS6

This term LS6 encountered *Moth: An Evolution Story* that captures the struggle of animal survival against the background of an evolving human world in a unique and atmospheric introduction to Darwin's theory of Natural Selection.

In this story, the pupils have been following the Peppered moth, with its two unfurling antennae and four quivering wings, in a variety of tasks and activities.

Initial perceptions of "dull and horrible" were soon changed to "pretty and lovely" as the pupils sorted a variety of colourful and dull critters into moths / butterflies and other bugs. It was really interesting to listen to the pupils reasoning behind why each critter was put into each section. They were shocked by the reveal at the end of the task, that in fact, all of the colourful and unique critters, were moths.



Other activities included creating similes to describe the moth, writing instructions to make a moth feeder and elements of drama in reader's theatre tasks.



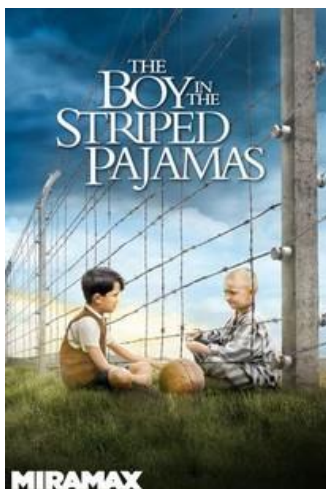
LS7

We have been doing lots of work on our RIGHTS in Citizenship this half term. We have learnt about the different rights we have as a child and then as a human and our responsibilities towards achieving those rights. We also looked at how sometimes rights come into conflict and we need to think about how everyone's rights are important as long as they don't affect the rights of others. Finally we looked at children in other countries who are not getting the rights they should and how organisations like Amnesty can help these children. We are definitely rights champions in LS7!



US1

US1 have been looking at tolerance this half term, what tolerance means and how they can show tolerance as it forms part of the MKS school rules. We have been looking at how we can show tolerance in school and at home. We have looked at what happens when people are not tolerant and how it can lead to prejudice or discrimination. We have been reading 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne that looks at what can happen when tolerance is not shown and when it leads to tragic events unfolding in history.



US2

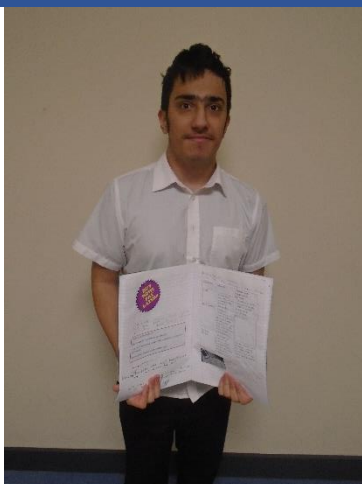
This half term US2 have been reading 'Moth' and have learnt lots of interesting facts about the evolution of the peppered moth. In Maths we have been learning how to solve algebraic equations and the students have impressed us with their perseverance and ability to follow multi-step methods. US2 have also been studying the artist LS Lowry and have created their own collages based on his work. We have also been learning how to make a range of healthy soups in Food Tech. The results have been delicious. In Music we have used garage band to create our own pieces inspired by the Serialism movement and in PE we have been developing our balance and coordination skills.

US3

In SEAL this half term, the focus was on one of the school values of 'Tolerance'. Students examined this theme and worked in groups on various activities. Most students have enjoyed these activities as it helped them develop a better understanding of how to be tolerant, in and around the school community.

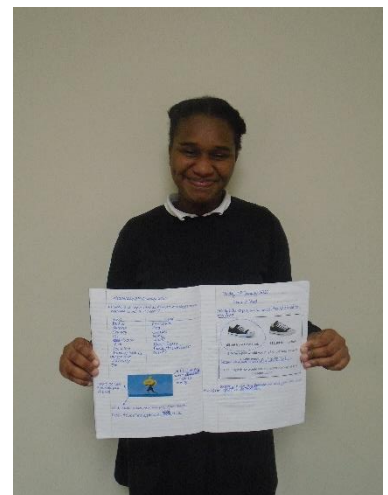
US3 are enjoying their course at Brooklands College and are now studying different modules this term of Media, Engineering and Catering.

In Computing/IT, students are learning about Spreadsheets how they can be used to solve problems. They have also applied their numeracy skills for particular spreadsheet tasks and from all accounts, they have found this BTEC IT unit of work very interesting.



US4

To welcome the start of the new year, the students in US4 have been focusing on their future in English. They took a personality quiz to see what professions matched their interests and they then practiced using the computer to job search, while considering all the important details of a perfect job: working hours, location, role and wage. The students were also able to

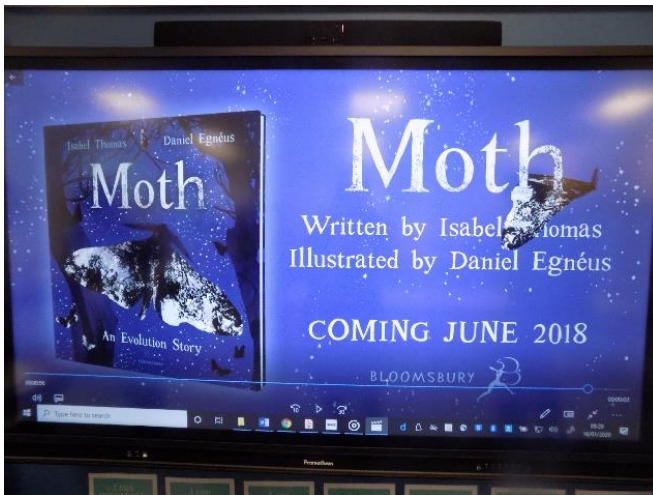


compare what makes a good and bad job advertisement; they had an opportunity to use language in an exciting way to design their own advert for a job of their choice.

With a focus on the future, the students have been thinking about how to make a good first impression with a potential employer. They have been using formal language (both written and spoken) to write a successful job application and to practice their interview skills.

In Life Skills, the pupils of US4 explored debt and what to do about it. This included an in-depth look into how easy it is to get into debt; they learned about interest rates on different types of bank accounts and about how interest accumulates when being loaned money. US4 then acquired knowledge on how to be clever with money; they learned how to budget and save. Finally, the pupils learnt about bank overdrafts and they took part in an in-depth discussion to analyse the positives and negatives of using an overdraft.

US4



In US5 students have been reading a book called 'Moth'. This book is about evolution of moth during industrial revolution and how it adapted and evolved during that time. Peppered moths were hidden in lichen covered trees but with pollution, which came with industrial revolution, the number of peppered moth reduced and black moth increased.

Pupils in US5 enjoyed roleplaying the evolution and adaptation of moth during the industrial revolution.

Students have applied what they have learned from the book in to their life style, such as things they have to adapt to, such as the weather. They have also connected the moth's evolution to the evolution of all species and to the changes in our habitat.



As part of our food tech and life skills lessons we have been learning to cook and enjoy food together and learning table manners. We made banana muffins, vegetable stirfry and a soup.



Native American Shields - KS3 - Art Spring 1

During Spring 1 KS3 have been exploring the work of LS Lowry. Students learnt about his industrial type landscape paintings and his unique take on cities in Britain. Students were challenged to draw and paint terraced houses, factories, clock towers, power poles and Lowry's unique "matchstick" type people. These drawing were then cut out and collated to create a Lowry inspired collage. Perspective was created in the collages by placing bigger buildings to the front and smaller buildings to the back. Brilliant work!



Native American Art - KS4 - Art Spring 1

During Spring 1 some students in KS4 have been completing a unit on work on Native American Art. As part of this unit of work students were challenged to design a war bonnet. War bonnets are feathered headgear worn by male leaders who have earned a place of great respect in their tribe. War bonnets were sometimes worn in battle but are now mainly worn for ceremonial occasions. Check out some of the designs below completed with water colours, pencil and black pen.



Science

This term US3 have been looking at Energy changes in a system, and the ways in which energy is stored before and after such changes. They have been learning the necessary GCSE physics equations to calculate these changes, for example how to measure kinetic energy, elastic potential energy and gravitational potential energy. They have also been learning about conservation and dissipation of energy in a system, and how to make systems more efficient.

US1 have just completed their Entry Level course work for the year and have now moved onto the next unit of work which will cover the following physics topics, electric current, circuits, domestic energy production and energy transfers in household appliances.

US5 have completed their Entry Level, for the year and they have been looking at chemistry in the world around us. They have covered the following topics, reaction of acids with metals, exothermic and endothermic reactions the formation of planet earth's early atmosphere, the production of fuels from crude oil and the advantages and disadvantages of burning fossil fuels.

US6 have been working on their course work for their Entry Level. They have completed a physics related piece which looked at how different materials act as thermal insulators, and will now be moving onto a biology piece that looks at the amount of energy stored in different types of food.

LS2, LS3 , LS6 pupils have been working on physics topics and have been learning about forces, contact physical pushes and pulls and non –contact friction and gravity. They also looked at the difference between measuring mass in kg and weight in Newton's. They have also explored how the Sun, Earth and moon interact, which orbits which and that the earth spins, relating it to the seasons on earth and what causes day and night.

Music

LS1 and LS2 have been learning about the Pentatonic Scale. Pupils have been learning about the widespread use of the scale around the world and how it is constructed. They have then learnt to play a well-known melody that uses the Pentatonic Scale and performed it to the class.

LS3, LS4, LS5 & LS6 have been studying Reggae music. This has involved learning about the origins of the music and its characteristics. They have also found out about a famous reggae musician, Bob Marley. Following this, they have been using the Ukuleles to learn to play in a reggae style.

LS7 have been studying Indian Classical Music. They have been learning about the structures and philosophy of the music and improvising and composing their own piece. This has involved learning about the role Tala and concept of Raga to create emotional colour. They have explored using plugins in Garageband to create as authentic sound as possible.

US1 have completed a Music Appraisal unit. This has comprised of analysing a range of music from different genres and identifying the musical features and elements used in each example. This has included use of tempo, dynamics, texture, timbre, structure and general features of the genre.

US2 have continued their unit on Serialism in 20th Century Music. They have studied the compositional techniques used by composers such as Stockhausen and then started composing their own short piano piece. They have constructed 12-tone rows, then found the retrograde, inversion and retrograde inversion tone rows. These were then recorded with fixed durations assigned to each note.

US3 and US4 have continued their composition work and group ensemble playing. Pupils have composed a TV News theme, taking elements from existing news theme that they know and composing their own version of between 30 seconds and 1 minute. Pupils were then required to evaluate their composition and highlight improvements that they would include in future projects. Pupils have also learned and recorded and second group ensemble piece, requiring them to play different parts independently of each other and then evaluate their playing and the groups playing.

US5 and US6 have completed their compositions and recently been learning to play Brahms' Lullaby on the Metallophone, learning about the use of rests in music. Although sounding simple, the piece has hidden complexity in the use of intervals, rhythm and tempo.

KEY DATES



Wednesday 4 th March	World Book Day	Dress up as you favourite character from a book!
Friday 3 rd April	Last day of term	Pupils leave at 1pm
Monday 20 th April	Summer term starts	Pupils return to school
25 th May – 29 th May	Summer half term break	School closed for pupils
Tuesday 21 st July	Last day of summer term	Pupils leave at 1 pm
