



Orchard House

As another busy term draws to a close, Anna and I have enjoyed looking back over the past few months and reflecting with our team about the many wonderful things worth celebrating.

The academic year started with a change to the structure of our day allowing space and time for tutor groups and a programme of enrichment activities. It took a while for everyone to be on board but the benefits are evident and it has been a joy to watch the connections and friendships developing as a result.

We continue to welcome students to Orchard House who struggle immensely with dysregulation but having engaged particularly well in developing their emotional literacy, regulation skills and ability to communicate their own needs, self-regulation is now being applied. These steps aim to empower young people to manage their mental health more independently and take valuable skills forward to post 16 education and beyond. Hearing a student say *"thank you I'm ready to go back to my lesson now"* is music to our ears and a true testament of the work our team at Orchard House put in to enable this amazing change in our young people.

Rebecca Brooks & Anna Newman
Co-Heads of School



In English students have been developing their powers of persuasion through writing persuasive letters, articles and speeches and understanding conventions of the dystopian genre and reading George Orwell's classic novel Animal Farm.

|G|E|O|R|G|E

|O|R|W|E|L|L

ART



Key stage 3 students continued looking at colour and created a variety of stunning pieces demonstrating a good understanding of colour and colour mixing.



The Key stage 4 students produced a wonderful range of artwork inspired by their combined Science/Art visit to the Tring Zoological Museum. Using a variety of materials and techniques, they captured the beauty and diversity of the animal world with creativity and care. Each piece reflected thoughtful observation, imagination and a real enthusiasm for exploring new artistic approaches.



Learning for Life

In PSHE our students have been learning about British Values and expressing our own values and our school values.

Understanding the concept of risk and how this might apply to our own experiences is a critical skill and our students took part in two workshops this term; one delivered by Cranstoun (*a charity providing drug and alcohol education*) and another from Brook Sexual Health.

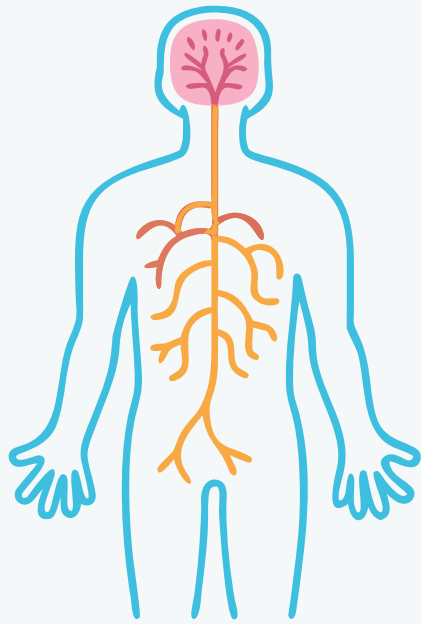


Future Makers

Students in KS4 visited the Royal Albert Hall, gaining inspiration from one of the UK's most iconic cultural venues and watched Future Makers.



Science



Our KS3 students have been learning about atoms and chromatography and the KS4 cohort are enjoying learning about cells, the nervous system, hormones and rates of reactions.



My Space



During My Space we have enjoyed a number of trips and visits and a mixture of outdoor learning, life skills and experiences. We have had an offsite woodland trip with fire lighting and marshmallow roasting and a first aid workshop.

There has been lots of project work around the school such as planting spring bulbs and setting up our hammock and garden area. To top off the term, the Christmas craft and coffee morning was all planned by the students themselves!





From all of us at Orchard House,

We would like to thank you for your continued support and partnership. As we look forward to an exciting term ahead, we wish all our families and friends a joyful, peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



[Click here for Calendar and Term Dates](#)



[Click here for Information for Parents & Carers on our school website](#)



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