

2023-2024

Newsletter

Spring 2



**Reddish Hall
School**



The Hive
At Reddish Hall

Part of the Acorn Group



Maths in the Real World: Our Hands-On Approach

Maths is all around us and our students are getting their hands dirty—literally! Check out these snapshots of how we're connecting Maths lessons to the real world:

In the Garden: Maths Meets Nature

Our students aren't afraid to get a bit of soil under their fingernails if it means seeing Maths come to life. Measuring plots, calculating growth rates—our garden is a living Maths lab!



In the Kitchen: Maths Has Never Tasted So Good

Maths is the secret ingredient in every recipe. From measuring to scaling, our students are mixing, baking and calculating their way to delicious discoveries.

On Paper: Exploring Patterns and Numbers

We're getting back to basics and using paper and pen to explore numerical relationships. It's amazing what you can discover with just counters and cubes.





Mathletics: Taking Maths Further

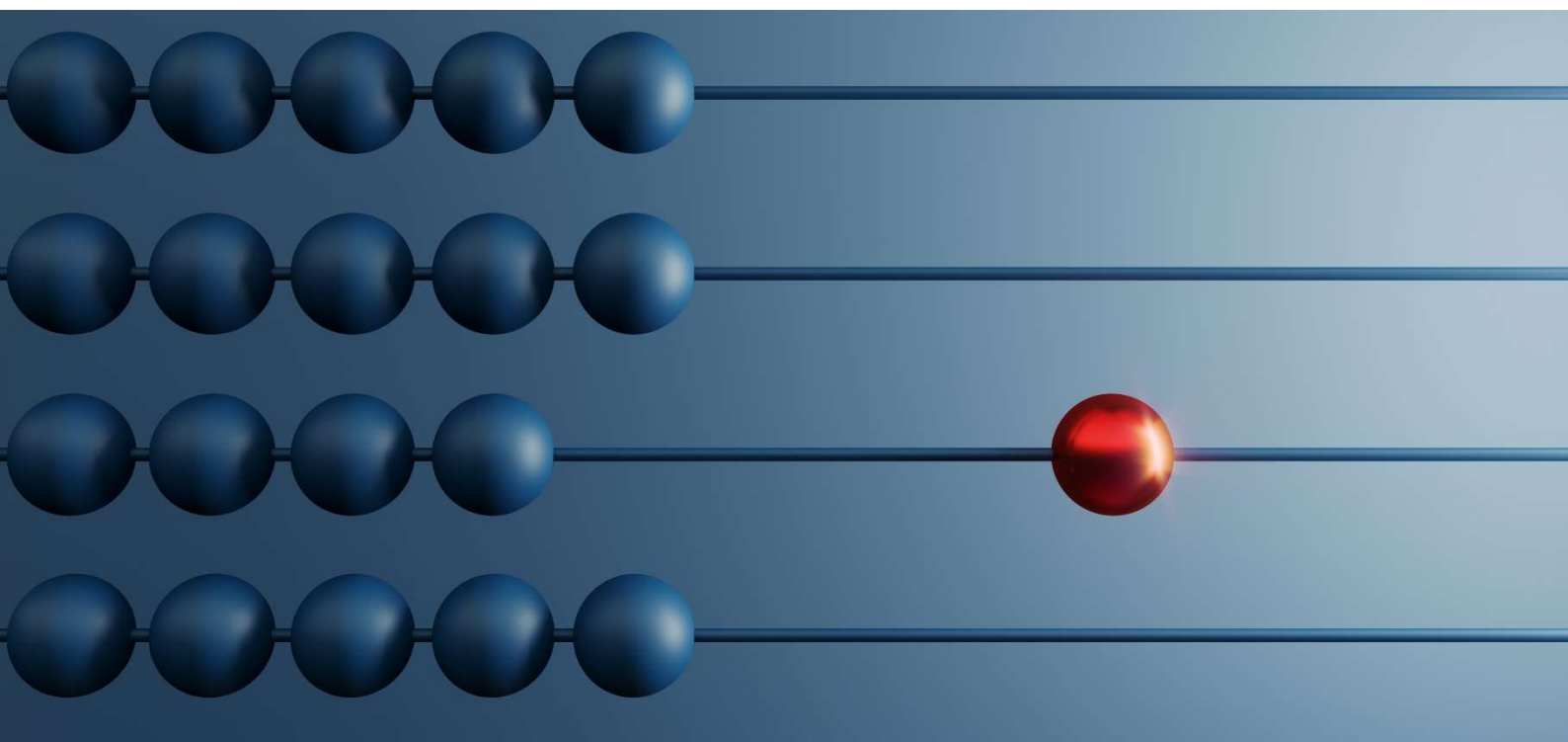
Any student eager to delve deeper into Maths can sign up for Mathletics—our online platform that makes Maths accessible anywhere, anytime. It's a world of numbers at your fingertips: all you need to do is ask.

Jo Kinsella is the go-to person for Mathletics. Just drop her an email with the student's details at jo.kinsella@reddishhallschool.co.uk and she'll get you all set up.

For Level 1 or Level 2 Maths inquiries:

- Student Name
- Class
- Level 1 or 2 Preference

Jo will coordinate with the Maths teacher and make sure login details are sent home too.



Need More Maths Info?

For anything Maths-related, whether it's about qualifications or our overall Maths offerings, you can reach out to me, SMooks, at sharron.mooks@reddishhallschool.co.uk. I'll make sure to point you in the right direction or answer any queries you may have.

Let's continue to make Maths not just a subject, but a skill for life, a reason to be curious, and a source of endless fun!



Subjects

Humanities:

This half term we have been busy as usual in Humanities. Supporting our broad curriculum offer, we have been increasing our cultural capital and learning with a range of visits:

Year 7 and Primary visited Lancaster Castle, a medieval fortress and one of the longest serving prisons in our country, following our topics "Crime and Punishment" and "Life in the Middle Ages".

Year 8 and Keystone 1 visited Speke Hall in Liverpool, a Tudor House where students could learn onsite different characteristics and life in those times.

Year 9 and Keystone 2 visited the People's History Museum in Manchester, where they saw many artifacts and displays that align with some of the topics studied this year: 'Women's struggle for the vote', 'Industrial Revolution and its social consequences' and 'The rise of extreme ideologies'.

Finally, our nurture groups visited Quarry Bank Mill to support their learning on the topic of the Industrial Revolution in Manchester.





Nurture:

Our Key Stage 3 Nurture classes enjoyed a visit from an African musician, as part of their Wider World topic of Africa. The pupils and staff enjoyed listening to Tongesayi Gumbo play the kora (a traditional African guitar) and the African drums. Pupils also had a chance at playing the African drums, which was enjoyed by all. Nurture 3 all commented on how relaxed they felt while listening to Tongesayi playing the kora made, and a pupil in Nurture 1 gave the session a 10 out of 10 review.



Humanities:

In KS3 Humanities, we have been looking at the French revolution, as well as learning some French and French culture. During the last week of the half term we had a French culture day where we made hot chocolate, ate pain au chocolat, watched French cartoons and played pétanque outdoors.

Dans les champs de l'observation le hasard ne favorise que les esprits prepares. -- Louis Pasteur





Construction:

Jayden C is progressing well with his wallpaper hanging skills units. Jayden began by learning how to hang lining paper, then moved onto woodchip paper and now currently using patterned papers. Skills developed have included papering ceilings and walls including internal and external corners. Tricky stuff!

Stuart W is just applying the finishing touches to his wall, which is pointing up the face of the brickwork. This has been an assessment piece of work which Stuart passed.



In the above photos, the Nurture groups 5 & 6 have been learning how to tile and are now working on their assessment pieces. This has involved them working out a design on paper then transferring it onto the board. They have had to set out their battens plumb, then locate the centre of the boards and tile out from the centre line. They have also had to learn how to cut tiles to size and have shown fabulous skill across all of these elements.



Catering:

Our year 10 catering students visited Franco's Ristorante in Oswaldtwistle. They had a chat with Stephanie and James about running a restaurant and then James showed the students how to make pizza.

The students made their own pizzas and ate them in the restaurant. Finley W, Katie P and Lacey J were particularly keen and made some great pizzas.



Horticulture:

This term we have been focusing on prepping the garden for the warmer months to come.

We've now finished the work on the second poly tunnel with the creation of 2 very big plant beds which the students have built themselves: sawing the wood to size, bolting it together, lining them and then filling them up with 4 tonnes of soil each... which I'm sure some of them are pleased to see the back of!

We've also had a focus on building wildlife habitats this term: from bug hotels to beetle banks, mini ponds and swift boxes with Cheshire Wildlife. We also took the Primary class to Reddish Vale to participate in the RSPB Big Bird Watch. Work stopped for a few days mid-January as we were blessed with quite a bit of snow - see the picture for how we spent those lessons 😊

Next half term sees the start of Spring so expect seed sowing as we gear up for this year's growing season, the introduction of our food waste recycling loop (more of this next newsletter) and the start of this year's Eco Champion tasks.





Star reader:

Star Reader Competition - Pupils have read 113 books since September and have been awarded some awesome prizes for their efforts.

Functional Skills - Pupils have achieved 40 qualifications for Reading and Writing between them (since September) across Entry 1 - Level 1 Functional Skills English.

Topics Covered: Year 7 have been studying Skellig by David Almond; Year 10 Non-Fiction Writing including letters, emails, instructions and blogs.



A writer only begins a book. A reader finishes it.

Motor Vehicle:

Our students have been busy progressing their motor vehicle skills this term. See below for a list of some of our recent student accomplishments.

Year 11:

- Armaan A has completed the braking unit.
- Ethan B has completed the compression ignition unit.

Nurture:

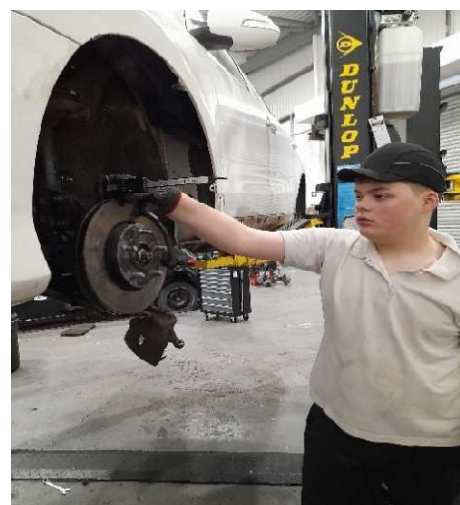
- Ollie J has started the Drilling tools skills unit.

Year 10:

- Shae P has started working on the braking unit.

Keystone:

- Ruby B is continuing with their engine project.

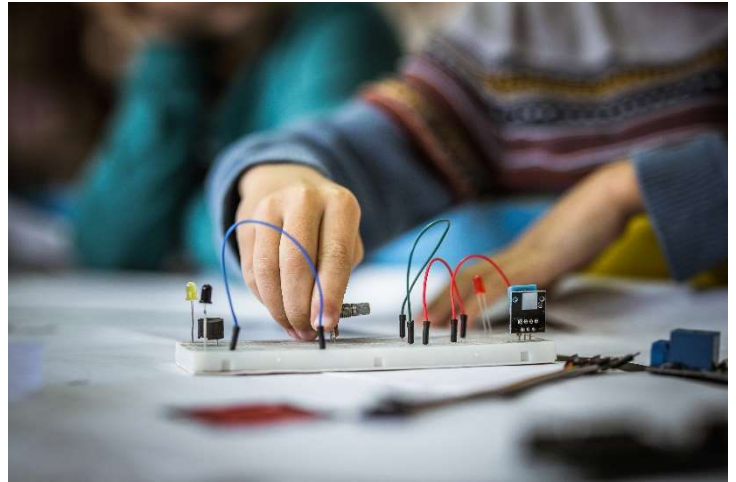




Science:

This term in science, KS3 have been learning about Electricity and Magnetism. The students have been fantastic in learning how electricity is used to power our devices and have managed to create a variety of parallel and series circuits.

Our GCSE students have been progressing their AQA Biology topic and studied Bioenergetics. The students particularly enjoyed learning about the human bodies response to exercise, where they measured their heart rate and oxygen levels before and after 5 minutes of exercise.



Science Club:

Our STEM accredited science club has been busy this term, exploring everything science related. We ran a variety of sessions including rock tumbling, cracking geodes, growing chillies and building robots.

Our science club has expanded its offering this term, allowing the students to improve their mechanical skills and problem-solving ability. The students were given the chance to modify and repair RC cars, including switching out suspension, changing tyres, cleaning motors and repairing battery connectors.

This new branch of science club has been incredibly popular and have seen a 100% increase in science club attendance numbers.





Eco Team:

Our Eco team are arranging a fundraiser plant sale in the Reddish Hall Summer 1 term. The fundraiser will be selling a variety of homegrown plants including a selection of the world’s hottest chilli pepper plants.

As part of the Eco Teams push to improve our eco footprint, in collaboration with our ASPIRE lessons, the school has been improving its methods of meeting the 6 Rs of sustainability: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair & Recycle.



REPAIR
 Can the product be repaired easily?
 Can it be repaired cheaply?
 Can parts be replaced, rather than the whole product becoming unusable?

REUSE
 Can the product be reused, perhaps in a new way, to extend its life?
 Can parts be reused?
 Is it easy to dismantle for reuse?

REFUSE
 Can you refuse to design something that isn't really needed?
 Can you refuse to use materials that aren't recyclable?
 If your design isn't sustainable, will people refuse to buy it?

REDUCE
 Can you reduce the amount of materials used?
 Can you reduce the energy needed for manufacturing?
 Can you reduce the waste and packaging?

RETHINK
 Is this product really needed?
 Can you rethink the product so it lasts longer?
 Can you redesign the product so it's easier to recycle?

RECYCLE
 Can you use recycled materials?
 Can you use materials that can be recycled after use?
 Can you design a product that is easy to recycle?

The 6Rs
 Use the Six Rs to make your own designs sustainable and to evaluate the environmental impact of other products.

THE POSTER POINT



Spring Term	
INSET 3	Monday 8th January
Term Begins	Tuesday 9th January
Half Term	Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February
Term Ends	Friday 22nd March
Easter Holidays	Monday 25th March – Friday 5th April

Summer Term	
Term Begins	Monday 8th April
Bank Holiday Monday	Monday May 6th May
Half Term	Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May
Term Ends	Friday 19th July
INSET 4/5	to be carried out as TWILIGHT sessions



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