Foxford Focus

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Edition 26 • December 2024

Update from the Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers

What an incredibly busy half term our staff and students have had and we cannot wait for you to read this edition of the Foxford Focus.

I cannot be any prouder to be Headteacher of Foxford seeing our students engaging in so many activities and learning on their way.

Having our local MP was particularly interesting for our ambassadors and hearing one student say to them, 'You are inspirational and we can all learn from you' made me remember why I came into teaching. Most teachers have that one teacher who taught them that made them realise that's the job for me - mine was Mrs Cook when I was in Year 3 and I want all our students to find that one subject or enrichment activity that will make them have fond memories of Foxford. Which is why I would like you to encourage your children to join some of the many after school activities we run.

I hope you enjoy reading all about this term and I would like to take this opportunity from myself and my staff to wish you a good break and a Merry Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing the students on 7 January 2025!

Mrs Gallagher
Headteacher

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Calendar

Monday 6 January	Training Day
Wednesday 8 January & Thursday 9 January	Year 7 – Say Yes to Learning
Thursday 9 January	Year 9 Options and parents evening
w/c 13 January	Year 13 mock exam week
w/c 20 January	Year 11 mock exams begin
Wednesday 29 January & Thursday 30 January	Year 8 – Say Yes to Learning
Thursday 30 January	Sixth Form parents evening
Tuesday 4 February	Year 12 Enrichment Day
w/c 17 February	Half Term
Monday 24 February	Training Day

Free Parent Arbor App

Please download the free Arbor app.

We are now using the app to send 'In App' messages, trip payments and consent and school shop items.

You will also be able to view your child's praise points, Behaviour points, attendance and timetable.

The app will enable you to check your child's emergency contact details are up to date, as we no longer issue paper forms for this.

The app can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play Store.

If you have any problems, please email foxfordmail@castlephoenixtrust.org.uk

Numeracy at Foxford



At Foxford in Key Stage 3, we hold numeracy sessions during tutor time, which allows pupils to practise numeracy skills weekly to enhance their mathematical skills. Students will compete in form and band groups termly and this is also tied into our CODE rewards program, as we promote good behaviour with rewards.

Year 7 students enjoy numeracy ninja activities. This is a programme that helps with the transition and numerical development of students, as they enter weekly retrieval practise of mathematical skills. There were 33 students achieving averages, obtaining a black belt this half term and they were awarded with five code points and a certificate. Coming soon we have our named black belts of the term and winner of the termly challenge

Year 8 students have been discovering how numeracy affects their everyday life therefore preparing them to be numerate enough to understand calculations that occurs around them.

Year 7 and 8 Girls Football Team

The Year 7 and 8 Girls football team competed in a football tournament against other schools from Coventry. The girls managed to finish 3rd out of 16 schools and only just losing on penalties in the semi-final to the eventual winners.



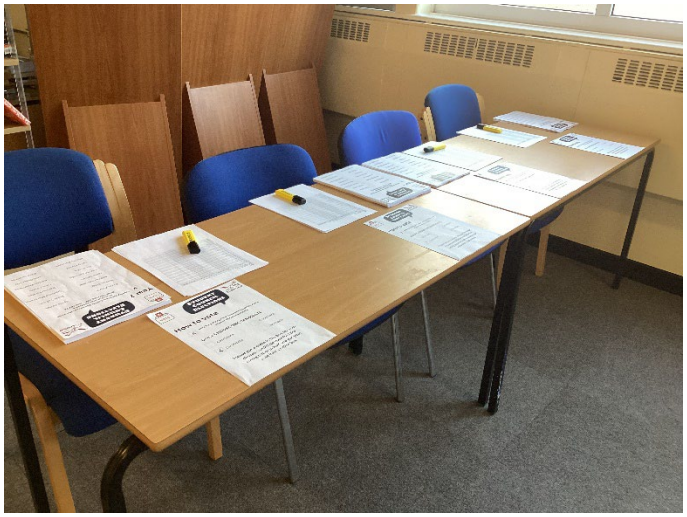
Foxford School Council Elections & MP Visit

This UK Parliament week at Foxford our students had the opportunity to take part in a vote to elect the School Council. Students were given the opportunity in October to write their own manifesto and present this to their tutor group if they wanted to be a Tutor Ambassador. We now have two Tutor Ambassadors per tutor group who have been given a job description for their new role which tells them their very important responsibilities which include Student Panels, Drop-in Clinics and Student content creators.





In November Tutor Ambassadors were put into a school vote to elect the Student Council. Our Student Council is made up of two pupils per year group and this is the first time that we have decided our councillors in this way. What a roaring success it was, on Wednesday 20 November, all of our pupils were given the chance to vote for the Ambassador they wanted to represent them and be their voice in school. The library became our polling station complete with ballot papers, voting booths and real ballot boxes. Our tutor ambassadors helped to sign the students in and count the votes giving all pupils an authentic voting experience.



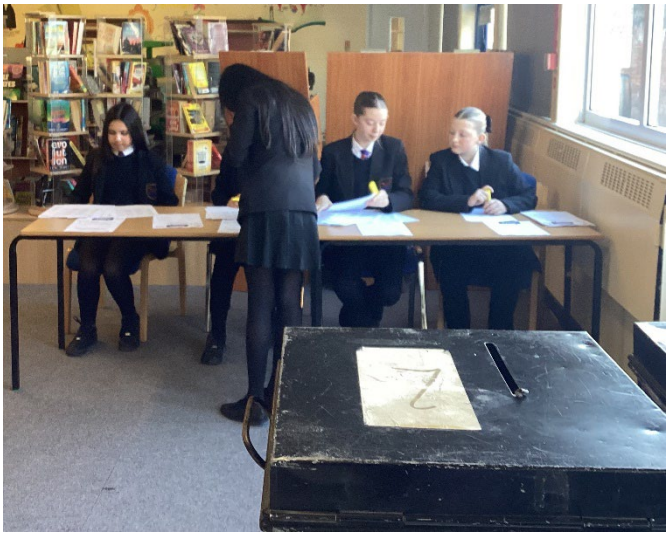






Foxford School Council Elections & MP Visit

This has been an exciting time for the school as our newly elected Student Council were then able to meet MP, for Coventry East, Mary Creagh, who visited our school on Friday 22 November. Mary presented the council with certificates and a Student Council badge for their blazers, as well as delivering a talk on her experience as a politician and answering questions that the Student Council had.







Tyisha Halil, one of the newly elected Year 11 Student Councillors, said “I enjoyed canvassing for my place on the council. Meeting MP Mary Creagh was very inspiring, the vote made me realise how lucky I am to have the people around me during this journey. I am really grateful for the support from the Foxford community to help me engage with my school work and my future.”

We are incredibly proud of all of our students this UK Parliament week. By electing Tutor Ambassadors and our Student Council they have learnt about British Values and Democracy. Empowering our pupils in this way helps us to create a culture at Foxford where our students can cooperatively shape their own learning and engage with their journey to success.

Watch this space for more updates on the Student Council.



Year 7 Experience the University of Warwick

Twenty Year 7 students had the opportunity to visit the University of Warwick campus to take part in interactive activities that introduced them to the option of Higher Education.

Students were able to learn about University life, and then apply that into their own design for university, where they considered what would be important for them to have on campus and for them to study. We also had a tour of the campus led by student ambassadors where students were able to ask questions and explore the facilities available for University students.



The day ended with a motivational speaker from AIM Higher who discussed with students the benefits of building strong educational foundations to support the different pathways they may wish to take in the future.





Year 7 Students Participate in Book Buzz at Foxford



This term, Year 7 students at Foxford have participated in Book Buzz, a national programme designed to encourage reading for pleasure and support literacy development.

As part of the initiative, students were allowed to choose from a carefully selected range of books, including:

- Like a Charm by Elle McNicoll
- Tutankhamun's Treasure by David Long
- Quiet Storm
- Nic Blake and the Remarkables: The Manifestor Prophecy
- The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries: Drama and Danger
- Code Name Kingfisher
- Animal Record Breakers
- Steady for This

This week, students received their chosen books and began their reading journey. By offering a diverse range of titles, Bookbuzz aims to foster a love of reading, helping students discover stories that interest them and support their personal development. Once students have finished their books, they will be able to take part in a book swap with Miss Rombach, giving them the chance to exchange books and explore new titles recommended by their peers. This initiative encourages further engagement with reading, as students share their thoughts and experiences.

At Foxford, we believe that reading is not only essential for academic success but also for personal growth. Programmes like Bookbuzz play a vital role in developing students' reading habits, improving their literacy skills, and nurturing a lifelong love of books. By providing access to a wide range of high-quality books, we aim to inspire students to become confident, enthusiastic readers both in and outside of the classroom.



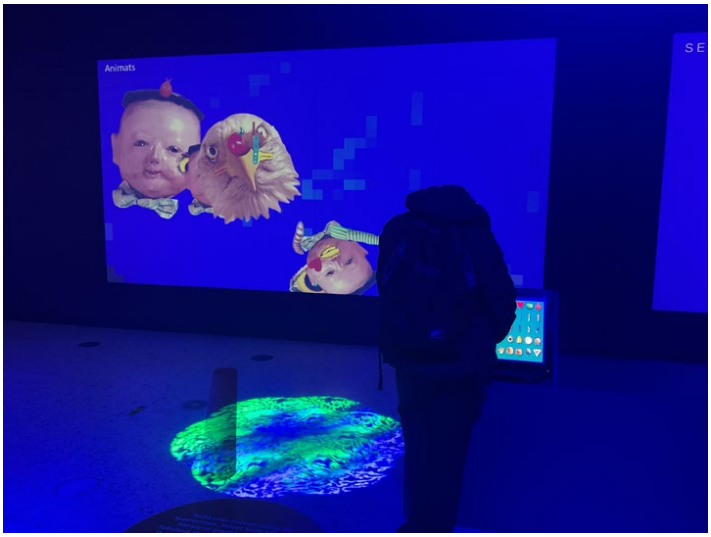
Year 9 Cultural Careers Event

Twenty Year 9 students attended a Cultural Careers Event in Coventry, hosted by Coventry Council.

Students were able to tour the Herbert Art Gallery and discover the wide range of careers needed to work within a museum and gallery including working within Archives, Sales and Marketing, Curators and Exhibit Designers. Students also got to experience the immersive interactive artwork exhibition which allowed them to explore, experiment and play with digital artwork.



They also got to visit the Transport Museum where the students got to participate in a non-verbal drama workshop, a create your own vision board using collage, and speak with employers and educators in a bespoke careers fair about further education and roles within the creative arts.





Make Someone Smile



During tutor time students have been able to thank someone who has helped them this half term by writing a 'Make Someone Smile' card.

This will be to show their appreciation for what colleagues at Foxford do for our school community. The cards will be distributed to the recipients with the help of our new school council representatives.

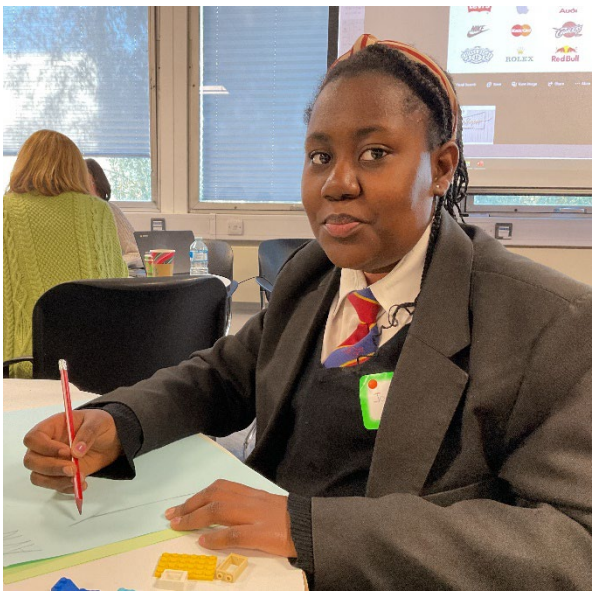
Year 9 University of Warwick – Multilingual Business Challenge

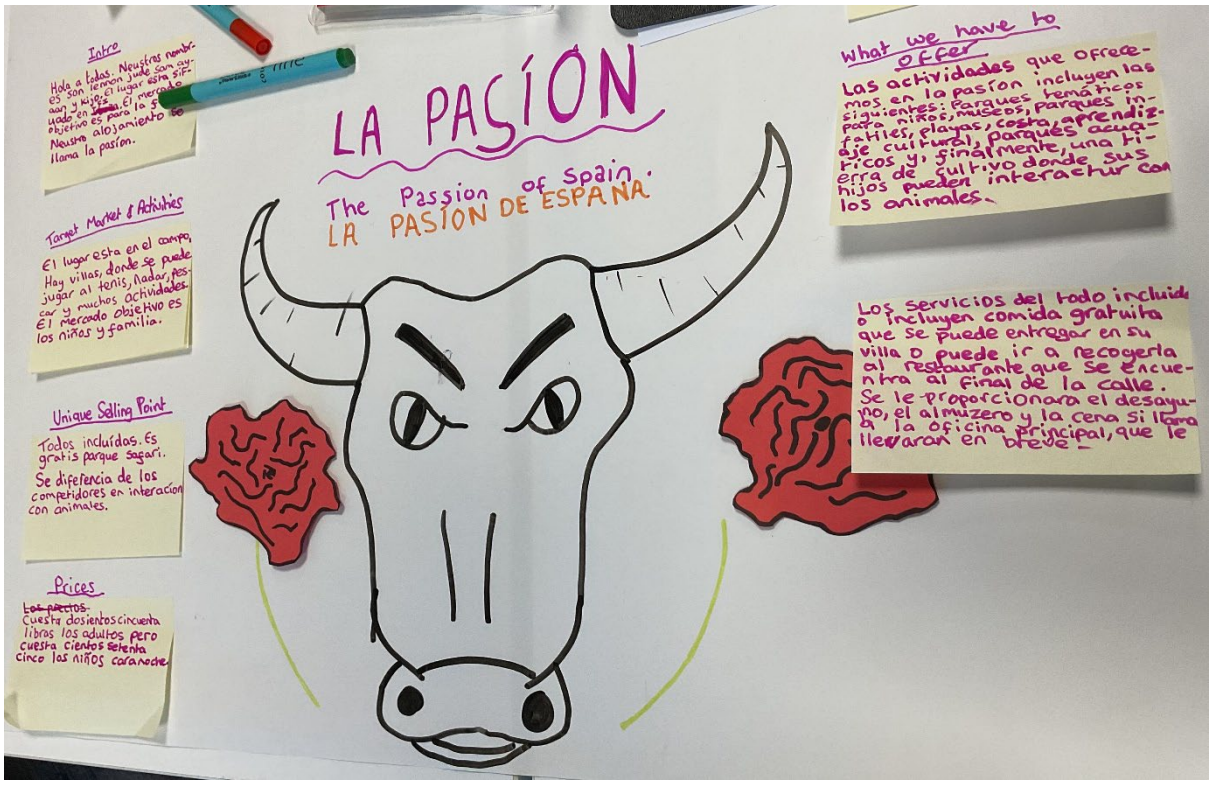
Eight Year 9 students have represented us at the University of Warwick for the Multilingual Business Challenge, against five other schools.

They were all amazing and made us proud with their Spanish knowledge, beautiful manners and amazing business ideas.









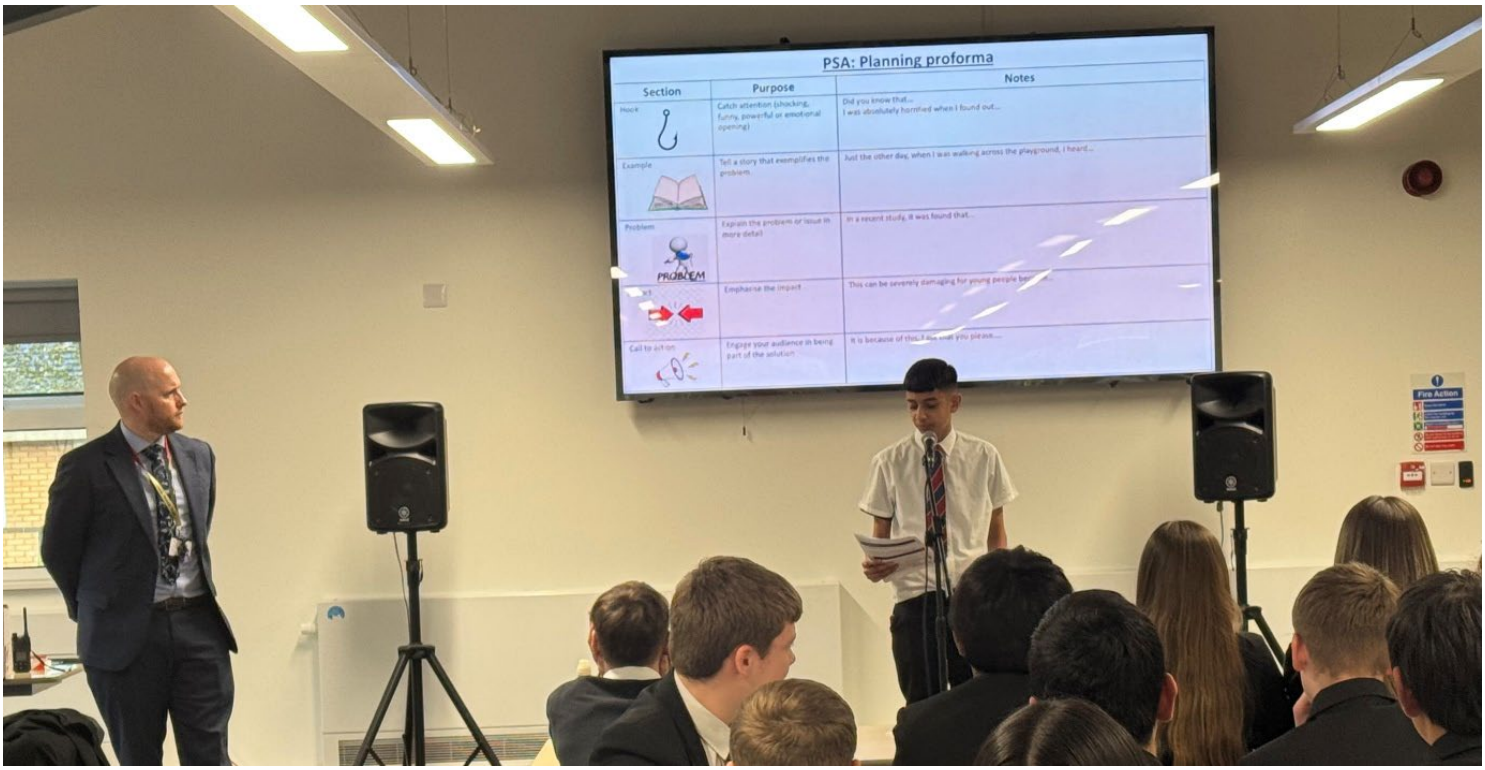
Year 9 Learning Conference: Developing Oracy Skills



Foxford School recently hosted a Year 9 *Learning Conference* as part of our *'Say Yes to Learning'* programme. These conferences are designed to help students understand how to learn effectively while developing essential skills such as oracy—the ability to express oneself clearly and effectively. A key focus of the conference was exploring the impact of mobile phone use on teenagers' mental health, including its links to anxiety and depression. Through group discussions and activities, students examined how excessive screen time can affect social skills, emotional well-being, and overall development. This exploration not only deepened their understanding of the topic but also encouraged them to articulate their ideas clearly and listen to diverse perspectives.

One standout activity was the creation of Public Service Announcements (PSAs), where pupils worked in groups to propose ways schools could raise awareness about the risks of excessive phone use. This task challenged students to apply critical thinking, develop persuasive arguments, and present their ideas confidently. These presentations highlighted the creativity and teamwork of our students, as well as their ability to reflect on real-world issues affecting their generation. The conference reinforced the school's values of Challenge, Ownership, Dialogue, and Engagement (CODE), with a strong emphasis on dialogue. Pupils were recognised and rewarded for their ability to communicate effectively, inspiring them to refine their oracy skills further.

Through the *'Say Yes to Learning'* Learning Conference, we are preparing students not only to succeed academically but also to engage thoughtfully with the world around them. By fostering these vital skills, we are empowering our pupils to become confident, articulate individuals ready to thrive in their future endeavours.



Year 11 Tutor Programme

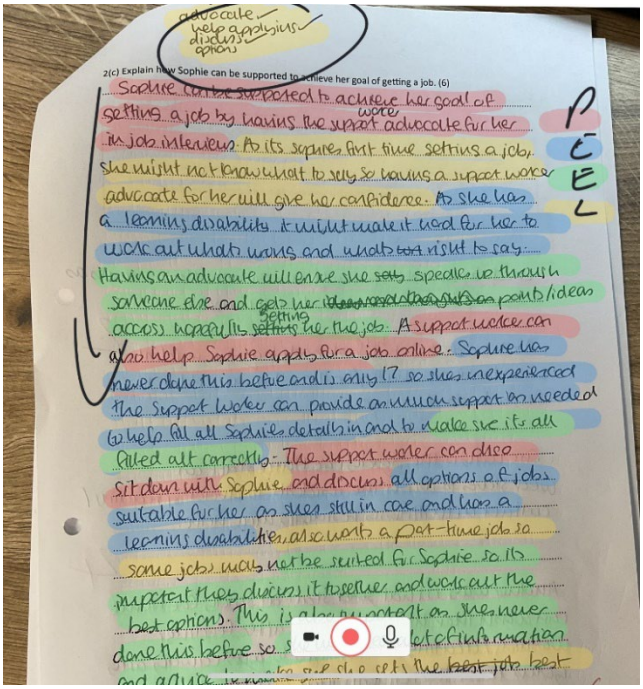
Following on from the Year 11 mock exams, 15 high attaining students were selected to participate in a tutor programme focussed on learning a variety of study skills and the journey from GCSE to A level and beyond.

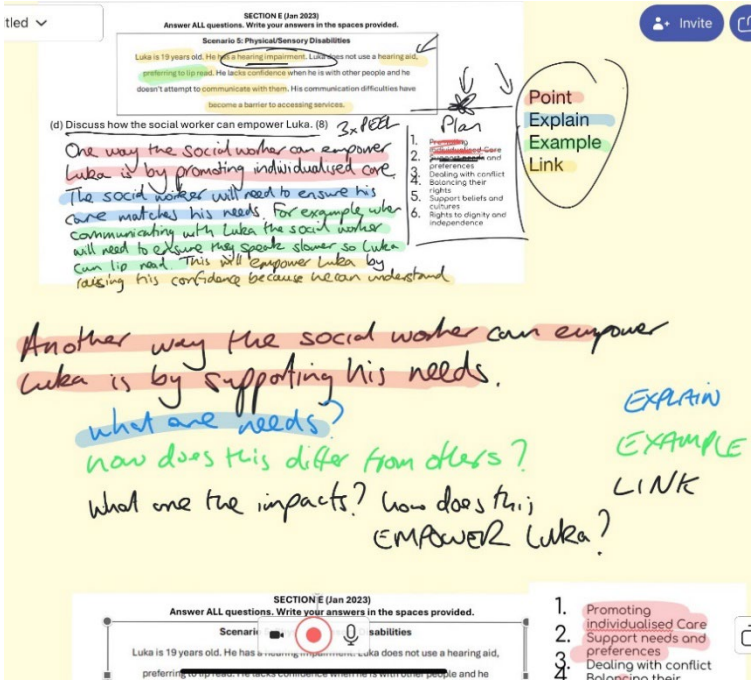
These sessions are led and delivered by the Sixth Form Leadership Team. Year 11 students are really excited to be taking part in the programme and to be working alongside Foxford students that have experienced GCSEs and have continued through to the sixth form successfully.

Digital Creativity

This half term we have been developing colleagues' confidence in the use of Digital Creativity. During our 'Big Three' initiative we share evidence informed teaching strategies for colleagues to use within their lessons over a two week cycle. They have the opportunity to share their successes within faculties and then showcase their use of the Big Three strategies to all staff. We have been focusing on 'what a good one looks like' and addressing misconceptions efficiently. All using an iPad and Explain Everything to enhance learning in the classroom.

The first screenshot is an example of how the use of an iPad and Explain Everything has supported students when answering longer style questions. The second is an annotated answer to show 'what a good one looks like' to students and how they used the PEEL (Point, Explain, Example and Link) technique. This was done in the lesson and modelled in the moment. This helps the teacher support students in an efficient way.





Target 20 Intervention Group

We have had a busy term launching and embedding our new Target 20 intervention group. This occurs in all years. Students who are not achieving as well as we would expect receive additional mentoring and monitoring to help them achieve their potential. The year 11 students are additionally mentored by a member of SLT, meeting with Target 20 students regularly and advising and helping with the individual student's needs. This is monitored by our school ambition lead Mrs Pattison and in KS3 by Mr Heer.

We have also launched our target 10% initiative in which every subject has identified students they will be focussing more closely on intervention strategies within the classroom. This is then monitored by the subject teachers and Heads of Faculty. Students are excited by this new strategy and we are already seeing improved attendance to school and period 6 sessions!

Impactful Teaching

As part of our drive to provide Quality First Teaching at Foxford, colleagues have immersed themselves in our new targeted and bespoke CPDL sessions this term. These tiered sessions, from beginner to advanced and led by the new look Learning and Teaching group (comprised of colleagues from all around the school), have provided tailored development for colleagues based on a range of practices for further development, from our Six Principles for Learning and CODE, through Creative Digital Technology to Oracy and Reading. Colleagues have also shown their passion for helping others develop their understanding of metacognition; developing an effective climate for learning and stretch and challenge for EAL and Higher Ability learners. We are proud of the bespoke and pinpointed design of our CDPL which is allowing colleagues of all levels of experiences to develop areas of their practice which are most pertinent of their personal learning journeys. We have also ensured that, through our Quality Assurance Schedule, we are visiting classrooms through our lesson drop ins to further support the development of the Six Principles for Learning and are conducting student voice activities to gain insights into what our students want and need to see from our Learning and Teaching. Our drive for continuous improvement is ensuring that we are creating for our students the best possible life chances and are open to receiving effective feedback to further strengthen our practice.

Aspirations Ambition



We have had an exciting term developing our Aspiration Ambition at Foxford. Our work with Tech She Can continued, with a further assembly for all Year 7 students about STEM careers, and a workshop for selected students on Tech for Connectivity. Students explored the concept of 'connectivity' and how it has evolved over time. Students were then able to engage in hands on learning by building a connectivity pathway to a robot. We aspire for all our students to develop the skills required to support their own and their peer's wellbeing. With that in mind, we are engaging in project with the Think Higher team at Warwick University. A group of Year 10 students are receiving training to become peer mental health champions, with their first workshop taking place in December. They will feedback to the senior leadership team and will cascade their learning across the year group.



We have been busy with careers related trips this half term. Visits to Warwick University have taken place for a for a range of groups, including Year 12 Economics students, a Year 9 Business languages event and a Year 11 Experience University day. Another exciting opportunity was the Cultural Careers event which took place in November at the Herbert Gallery and Belgrade Theatre. Twenty Year 9 students who have expressed an interest in creative careers were able to participate.

We were delighted to be invited to a media event held by Coventry Building Society, hosted by the Positive Youth Foundation, in November. We had the opportunity to meet with the CBS community team and to celebrate the successes of our partnership. Year 13 student Harleen Matharu, and Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form Mr Tully, were interviewed by BBC CWR radio about our work with CBS. This includes work placements and the employability skills programme, ensuring thar our students have the skills required to enter the workplace.

Creative Technology Winter Showcase



On Wednesday 11 December, Creative Arts and Technologies had their Winter Showcase in the Drama Studio. This was truly a joint venture where current Year 11 hospitality and catering students baked fresh mince pies and chocolate cupcakes to welcome the eager families to the event. Prior to the event starting, our Year 11 performance students used the time to perform their work as part of their assessment. All the performances were extremely poignant focusing on mental health as part of their stimulus. The Showcase opened with Year 10 dancers Esmee Grantham, Lilly Jones and Mickayla Gawman with Lily choregraphing the whole performance. This once again showed the sense of collaboration and teamwork within our community.



Throughout the evening we saw a range of talents with impressive performances from our singers; Year 7 Raisa Dumitru singing Sia's Snowman and Kaya Dheandsa (Year 11) once again showcasing her vocal talents. We also saw two bands with Year 8 band Living Dreams performing for the first time and Year 9 band The Spires singing three songs ranging from Last Christmas to the rocky Zombie. Individual praise goes to our Year 9 student Molly Parsons who gave an amazing performance to the appreciative audience. The event was closed by Year 11 student Gursimrat Devgan and Jaya Green who gave us a Bollywood inspired dance and a wonderful colourful conclusion to the showcase. To ensure that all of Creative Arts were taking part, we also had an immersive live painting taking place with Year 11 Scarlett Williams and Year 7 Kaiden Westhead painting during the show. The showcase was a celebration of collaboration, resilience, creativity and culture and as a faculty we were once again so proud of what our students are capable of achieving.

Coventry Foodbank Emergency Parcels

Will be available at Coventry's four Fire stations starting on Friday 27 December 2024 to Wednesday 1 January 2025 from 10am to 12.30pm each day

Canley Fire Station Sir Henry Parkes Road Coventry CV4 7BA Tel: 0121 380 7524	**Foleshill Fire Station** Foleshill Road Coventry CV6 5HN Tel: 0121 380 7525
Coventry Fire Station Radford Road Coventry CV1 4EL Tel: 0121 380 7523	**Binley Fire Station** Hipswell Highway Coventry CV2 5FQ Tel: 0121 380 7526

Other Support is available

Holbrooks Evangelical Church Parks Road Coventry CV6 4GD On Thursday 26th December ONLY from 6pm to 7.30pm.	**Coventry City Council** Broadgate House Coventry Open 27, 30 and 31 December normal working hours.
Coventry Open Christmas Queens Road Baptist Church Coventry Open 24/7 from Tuesday 24 December at 11am until 30 December at 10am	

Year 12 Experience University Life

Year 12 students had an amazing day at Coventry University, exploring exciting aspects of university life. The visit offered a hands-on experience in the courtroom, where students got a feel for legal proceedings and the thrill of advocacy. The forensics lab was a standout, providing an engaging introduction to crime scene investigation and scientific analysis. The sessions were interactive and inspiring, offering valuable insights into university-level education and potential career paths. Students appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of higher education. Foxford students enjoyed the day and many came away with ideas of what they'd like to study and where in the future.







NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust

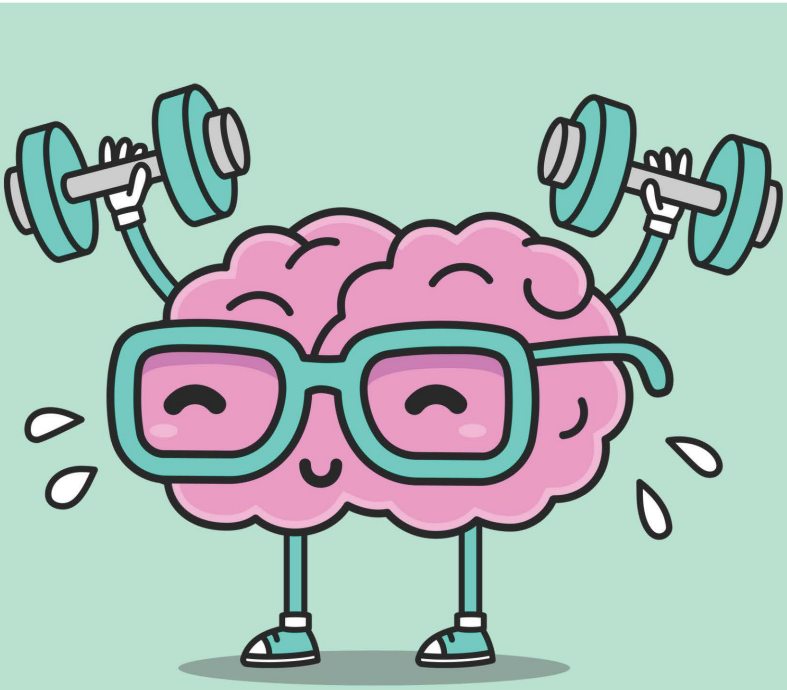
Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care System

Coventry City Council

Warwickshire County Council

MENTAL HEALTH *Matters*

Understanding young people and their mental health



What is Mental Health?

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act.

Importance of Mental Health

Good mental health is essential for overall well-being, enabling us to handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.

CAN YOU HELP US?

YOUR VOICE IS NEEDED! 🧠💭

Hello there! 👋 In Coventry and Warwickshire, we are aiming to improve mental health services for young people like YOU. 🌟

Your thoughts and experiences can assist us in developing services that will genuinely benefit you and your friends.

What Can You Do to Help?

We want to hear your opinions on what matters in mental health care!

We are working hard to make our services more "trauma-informed," which means recognising the best ways to support young people who may be experiencing anxiety, stress, or sadness due to difficult situations. 💛

Your voice matters, and by working together, we can create services that benefit everyone.

Visit our website or scan the QR code to complete the survey: END of survey 15th January 2025

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp9YY3ZOLNcJ6_vvVx1BjitRbfx9MPBU7R16tgPmuiBIDSzg/viewform

SCAN ME



MERRY CHRISTMAS

FROM FOXFORD SCHOOL