



DARWEN VALE

An Aldridge Community Academy 

1894 NEWSLETTER

END OF TERM-APRIL 2024 EDITION



We are pleased to present the tenth edition of our 1894 Newsletter. In this edition, you will read about some of the highlights of this term's subject activities and also a few of the exciting trips, work experience and festive themed activities our students have taken part in.

IN THIS ISSUE

This month will include:

Personal Development:

- Ian Murphy artist workshop.
- Apprenticeship event.
- Stem session year 7 (robot and bridges)
Career day.
- Science week.
- Ramadan.
- World of work.
- Senior mathematics challenge
- E-Safety



Trips and events:

- Bricktastic
- Falconry session
- Rewards trips- ice skating, flip out, cinema.
- U13's Girls Football
- Ten Pin Bowling
- Poland trip
- Argentinian cultural visit

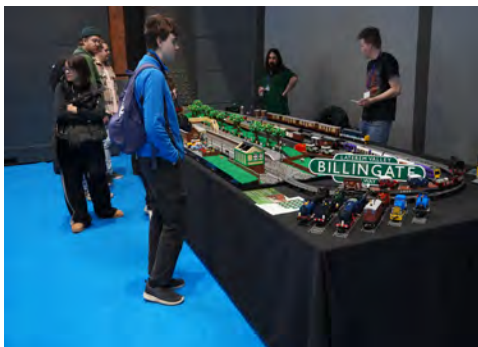


Lego Club decided to seek some inspiration and ventured off to Manchester to Bricktastic 2024, the UK's largest Lego conference.

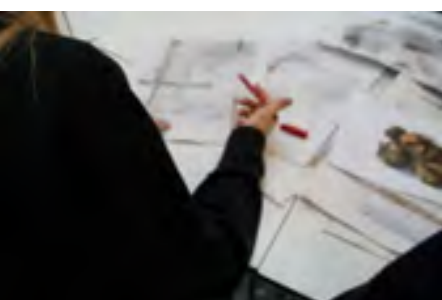
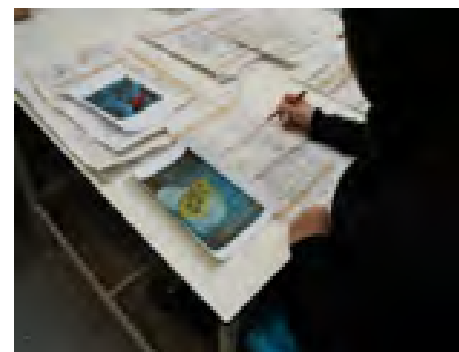
With over 100 exhibitors from the UK and beyond. Our Darwen Vale Lego enthusiasts had the chance to speak to the model creators to find out how they came up with such incredible creations and displays.

Bricktastic isn't just about looking at the Lego. Everyone had a chance to play, build, be creative and shop. The students loved the brick pits, contributed to a Lego Mosaic containing over 100,000 bricks, created a Lego habitat for an endangered animal and enjoyed a spot of retail therapy.

We had a fantastic day and cannot wait to visit again next year...



Ian Murphy artist workshop

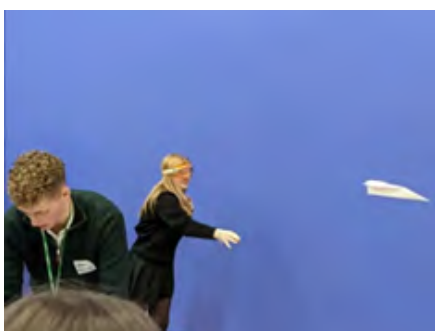


the art department were pleased to welcome back renowned artist Ian Murphy. Ian did a full day's workshop with 65 of year 10 art & design pupils. they listened to a talk about his life and work and went onto produce some stunning artwork based on natural focus using his distinct style and media

Apprenticeship Event



As part of National Apprenticeship Week Year 9 students took a trip to DACA to take part in a Nuclear Science BAE Systems workshop led by Apprentices. Students found the session engaging and rewarding and has given them a real insight into BAE Systems, Nuclear Science and Apprenticeships.





Senior Mathematical Challenge



UKMT Challenge is a 60 minute, 25 multiple choice question Challenge. It encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought and fluency to make students think. The problems on the challenge are designed to make students think, most are accessible yet still challenge those with more experience.

The Maths Team would like to congratulate all students for their participation. The following students received extra awards:

Year 9:

Silver Award - Maxwell Rutherford

Bronze Award - Reece Clayton

Mia Chelton

Lucas Wane-Evans

Year 10:

Gold Award - Elliot Rigby

Silver Award - Benjamin Gardner

Year 10: Bronze Award -

Daniel Maher

Jack Stones

Harmony Hacking

Zach Saghir

Logan Williamson

Lennon Maher

Anthony Foley

Samuel Binns

Mia-Grace Rice

Kaj Brewinski

Filip Smulski

Alissa Malpass

Alfie Skinner

Evie Smith

Charlie Magnall

George Ball

Hollie Feeney

Emily Taylor

Matilda Stott

Harry MacFarlane

Booby Leech



Elliot Rigby has been invited to take part in Pink Kangaroo 2024. This is something he should be extremely proud of!

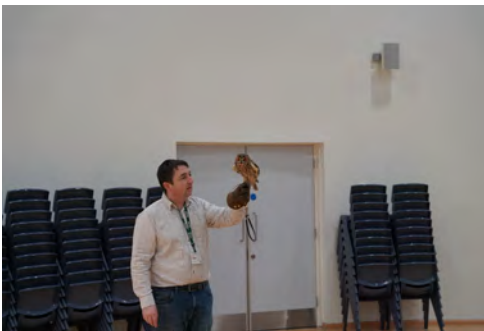




Falconry Session

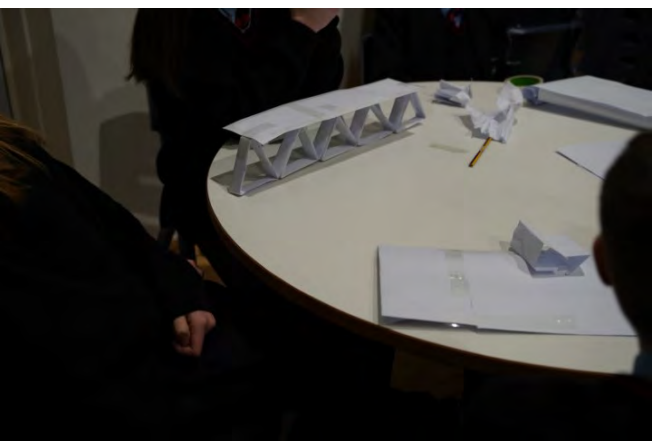
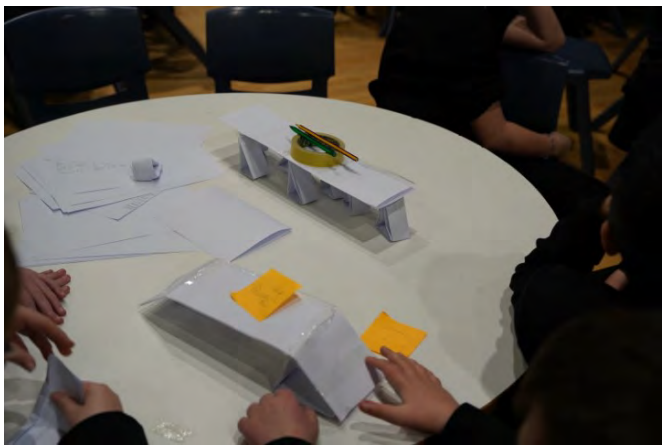


On Tuesday we welcomed SMJ Falconry into school. Chris brought in 5 of his feathered friends to talk to year 8 about these birds of prey including Geoff the Peregrine Falcon. This supported the students learning on the Ecology unit they had just completed. He described adaptations these birds have to enable them to thrive in the habitat, differences between nocturnal, diurnal, and Crepuscular owls. They discussed the bird's diet and how their eyesight helps them to see the prey as well as how fast they can fly and swoop to catch it with their talons. Each bird flew around the hall over the pupils' heads and was a wonderful experience for all the students involved. Each session was rounded off with an opportunity to hold Geoff! This was an amazing opportunity for the students who were, as always, a credit to us, asking some in depth questions and enjoying seeing the birds up close. We look forward to SMJ Falconry returning future visit soon.





Stem session

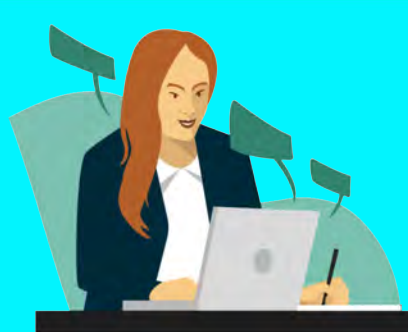


Yea7 took part in a STEM session. They explored the idea of robots, where and how we use them at home, school and in everyday life. They discussed how the use of robots could enhance and disrupt our lives. They then went on to look at the vital roles of engineers and the role they play in society.

To end the session, they got practical and put their engineering and creative skills to the test by building a self-supporting bridge using paper and Sellotape.

Wow we definitely have some future engineers here at Vale. Well done Year 7, you were amazing today, our visitor thought you were ALL wonderful.





We held our annual Careers Fair on 7th Feb 2024 in the main hall. The event saw all year groups attend and interact with the array of employers, apprenticeship providers and Universities. Students engaged well and sought information and advice to support their progress in the future.

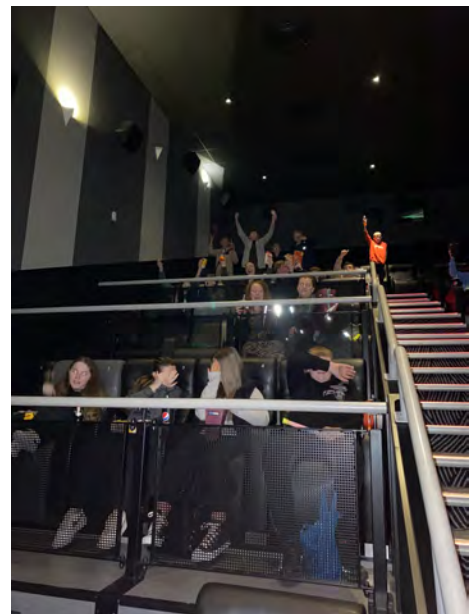
Ice skating

100 pupils attended at the Planet Ice Blackburn Arena as part of Easter rewards. Within 30 minutes being on the ice, they got more and more confident. Every student had a smile on their face. The more confident ones helped the less confident to enjoy themselves. A few of them looked like professionals. They loved every minute of it.





Cinema



Watched Migration. we all had a brilliant time, the students where all extremely well behaved. The movie was good and had a few laughs. We most definitely all ate our body weight in snacks.

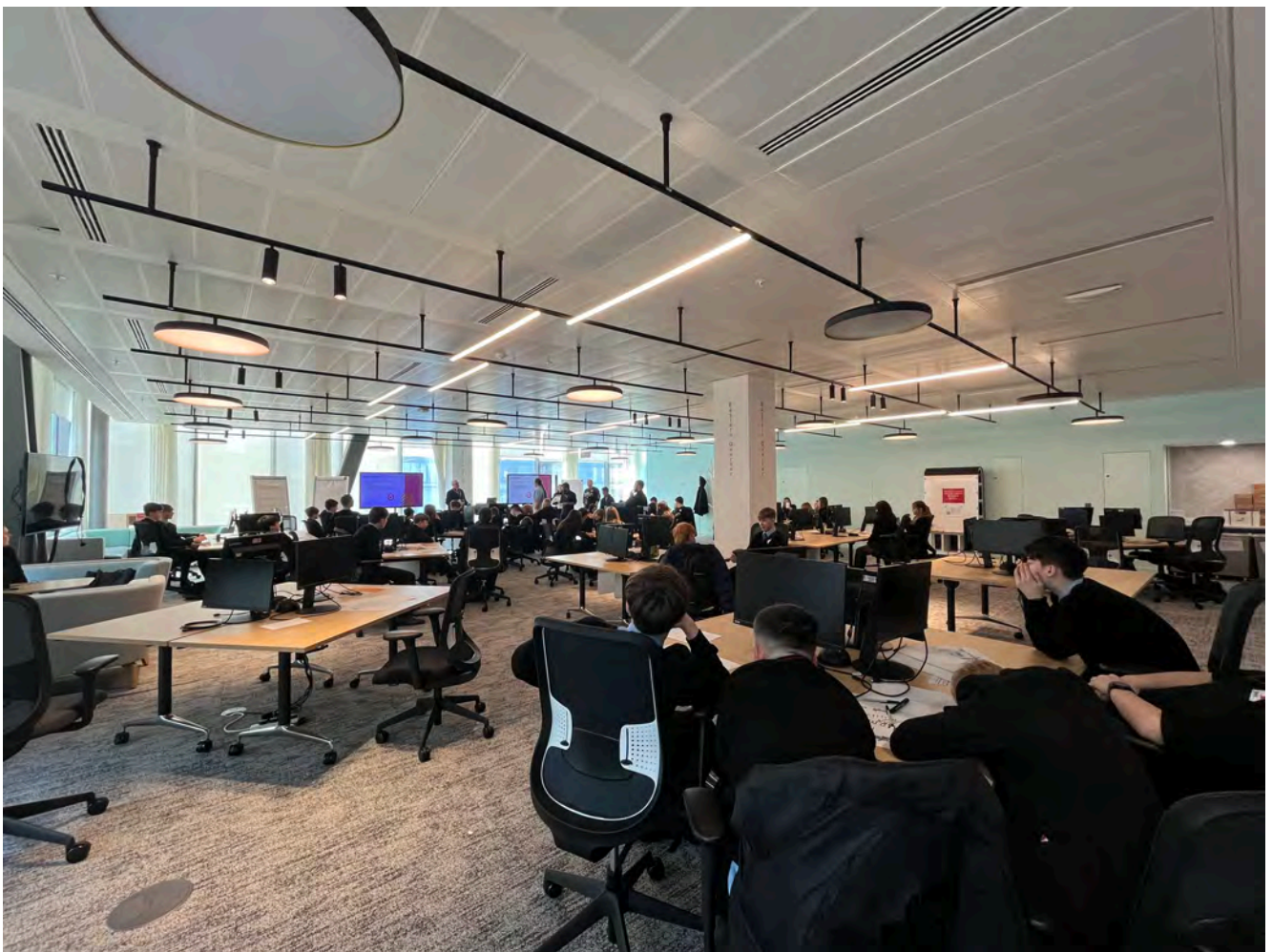
All round agreat afternoon



world of work



we took a group of year 9 & 10 students to PWC in Manchester to experience the world of work for the day. Students visited the state of the art and modern offices and participated in two workshops. Students said they really enjoyed the visit, and it has really inspired them to work at an international industry leading organisation.

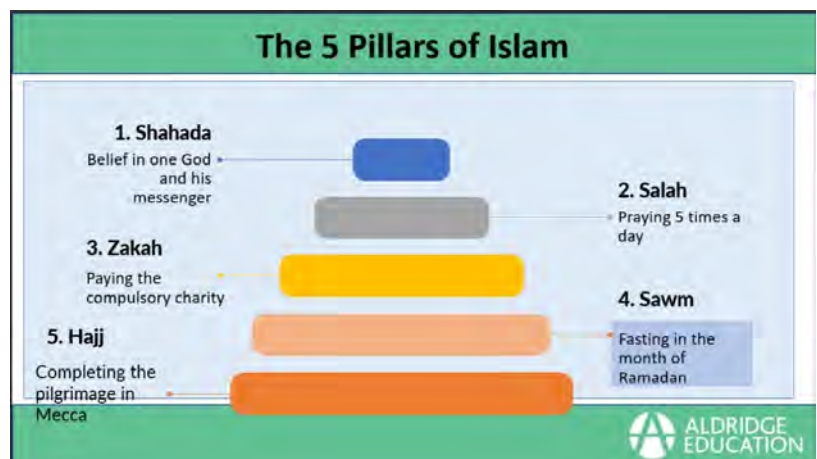


Learning about Ramadan



During form time students have been learning about important International days as well as an important holy month. Students have been exploring inclusivity and have studied, 'What is International Women's Day?' as well as why we have it. It was key for students to learn about the: gender gap, women being underrepresented even today, the pay gap and highlighting that it is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, political and cultural achievements of women.

The students have also learnt about Ramadan. We are a diverse school who have a number of students fasting. Learning about Ramadan ensured that students are enriched in cultural awareness, promotes religious understanding, fosters interfaith dialogue, strengthens social cohesion, and contributes to personal growth and development.

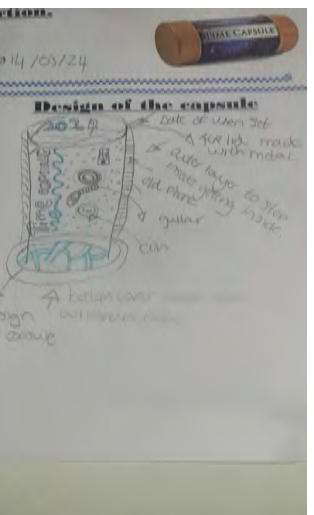
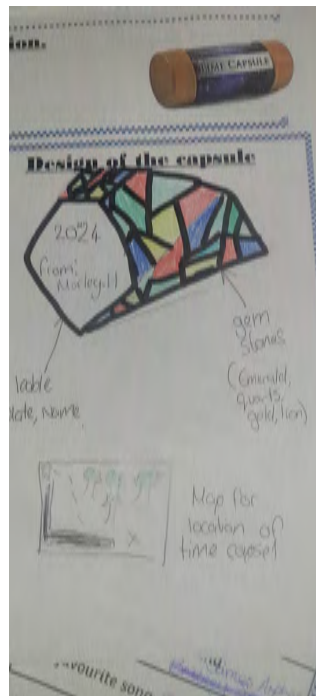
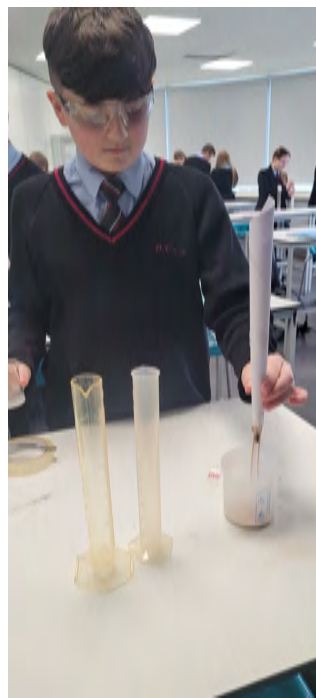
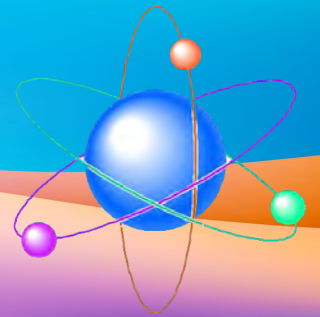


Ramadan

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar and for Muslims the most important. They believe that it was during Ramadan that the Qur'an started to be revealed to Muhammad.



Science Week



This week has been British Science week and we have been studying this years Theme of Time with all KS3 students. Students have looked at what time is and how we measure it by creating their own sand timers. They have studies the sun to see how it can be used to tell the time and created their own sundials. We have looked at how the moon creates tides on the Earth and completed story boards to show this. The week has been rounded off by designing our own time capsules so that future Vale students will know what like at Darwen Vale was like in 2024!





U13's Girls Football



The U13's girls are through to the semi-final of the Lancashire cup after winning 3-1 Monday the 18th of March.

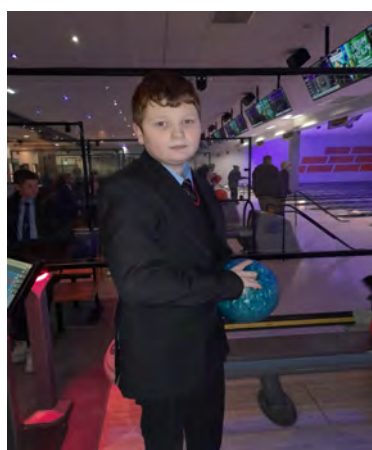
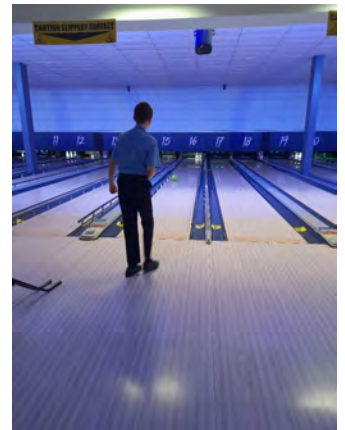




Bowling



On the 15th of January I (Tracy Warder) took a group of Key Stage 3 SEND pupils to Blackburn Bowling Alley to take part in a Panathlon against other schools in the area. The pupils were great advocates for the school and really enjoyed the experience. The pupils received a certificate and a medal for taking part. Alex McGuire scored a Strike! We did not win, but as the pupils said "it's the taking part that counts".





E-Safety



After e-safety week 2024 2 pupils came joint first in the poster making competition. Toby Hindle and Evie Rose Prescott were both chosen in first place. They received an Amazon voucher as their prize. They also have become Computing ambassadors for the department.

Poland Trip



40 Year 10s departed for Krakow early Wednesday morning. At the time of writing this, they have had a tour of the beautiful city and have visited Auschwitz- a poignant place they will surely remember for a lifetime. There are lots more activities and visits scheduled over the next three days for the students including meeting an Auschwitz survivor. The students are a real credit to Vale. Many thanks to Mr Smalley for organising this amazing experience.





Rewards Raffle



14 year 11 students won a mixture of easter eggs, Amazon vouchers, prom tickets and make up/nail vouchers for the prom as part of the year 11 reward assembly today. Students won raffle tickets from their teachers for working above and beyond what is expected and for making exceptional progress towards their learning.

Argentinian



Cultural Visit

30 Year 9/Year 10 and Year 11s got to meet some of our students. They played football and had lunch together.

