

Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

GRW & GR6

2020 will go down in history as a year that tested the world. It has certainly not been easy, but here at The Green Room we always try to focus on the positive. In the midst of all this uncertainty and isolation, we have managed to stick together, keep moving forward and become a little bit tougher and more resilient along the way. Enjoy reading about some of the things we can shout about this term and have a safe, warm and Happy Christmas! Bring on 2021!

Art, Craft and Design - Trainer project

For the design aspect of this programme pupils have been learning about trainer design and have explored the world of compostable trainers, trainers inspired by bean bags and trainers made entirely by waste materials.

They've had the opportunity to design and create their own personal trainers using spray paint techniques, hydro dipping, drawing and decorating in jewels. They have enjoyed this project, been engaged and full of creative ideas.

Engineering

If you've ever taken a look at the structures all around us and wondered why certain shapes



and formations are repeated everywhere, then this term's Engineering course was for you! Pupils studied the forces at play in engineered structures, such as compression, tension and torsion, and we delved deep into the geometry of the humble triangle to find out why it's always stronger than a square. This entailed building some toothpick and winegum structures that were miraculously strong enough to hold up "The Brick of Destiny!". We looked at arches, and bridges, and we built structures from Lego which could take the weight of even our heftiest staff members. The term culminated in pupils designing and building their very own lollipop bridges, which put all the theory they had covered into practice.

Consoletopia

GRW and GR6 gathered for our first Consoletopia of the year during the first half term. The event is a chance for pupils to socialise over video games after



school and take part in some healthy virtual competition. They had a great time and we plan to replicate the event every term!

GR6

The opening term of this year's GR6 program has been action-packed. It started with moving into our enhanced GR6 facilities following the renovation of The Coach House at The Swan, giving us a Tech Suite, our brand new, all singing, all dancing IT facility. The bright, atmospherically-controlled room has proved a stunning addition to our provision, and in terms of teaching spaces is a firm favourite among the pupils. As homely as our new space is at The Swan, pupils have ventured out - tentatively at first - around ancient Clewer village, then wider Windsor, with their history hunts. Later in the term they visited Windsor Auctions to get some expert advice, before being immersed in the wheeler dealer world of antiques and





first annual GR6 Halloween Spooktacular. This event was the brainchild of the pupils, who wanted to scare the living daylights out of the lower school kids in their very own Haunted House! The event was a great success and is the first of many planned as GR6 make the most of their unusual but brilliant home at The Swan.



curios at Sunbury Antiques fair. Pupils bought some pieces to auction later this month as part of their Bargain Hunt project. Alongside all that, pupils have devised and filmed their own game shows, set up a YouTube channel for the Market Garden, harvested countless boxes of fresh veg, and sold that produce at several Sunday markets at The Swan. On Thursdays, both pupils and staff donned their green Swan polo t-shirts and opened the pub up to members of the community, serving barista-quality coffee and their own home-baked goods. We invited these guests to take a tour of the provision and give us their views on what became "Epic Thursdays" - a regular slot where GR6 pupils welcome the community into the pub, providing some much-needed brightness for the community and developing their own hospitality and customer service

Reward Trip

The final Monday of the first half term saw the first Reward Trip of the Year. Three pupils: Elise, Matthew and Alfie headed into Windsor to the Escape Experience where they took part in the Lost Mask of Tlaloc Escape Room along with staff member, Dana. The group were locked in, and had to work as a team to solve a series of riddles, clues and challenges in order to ultimately try and Escape! The Reward Trip was the result of all 3 pupils working hard, embodying the school's Values and displaying exemplary behaviour across the last 8 weeks. The trip was a great success, and they were back in school by lunch time, meaning of course that they did indeed manage to Escape!

NaNoWriMo

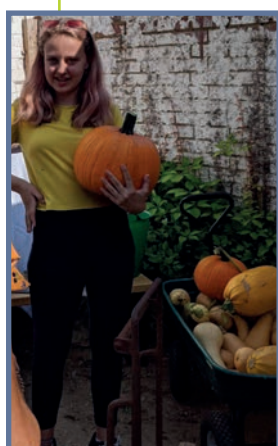
Each November, our young writers take to their keyboards to attack our annual challenge of writing a novel in just 30 days! This was our 4th year taking part in National Novel Writing Month which is a global program that encourages people to write write during the month of November. The Green Room takes advantage of the NaNoWriMo Young Writers Program platform which helps pupils to reach their individual word count goals with writing prompts, useful infographics and sprint challenges. Staff participants lead sessions during school for pupils to work on their novels and this year we've had the opportunity to celebrate with our biggest word count ever..... totalling 18373 words! This is a fantastic achievement for our novellists so well done to everyone who participated!

Birthdays

Happy birthday to EJ who was celebrating on 30 October, to CY who celebrates on the 22 of December, and NHK who celebrates on the 30th of December!

GR6 Bargain Hunt

GR6's Bargain Hunt project came to a profitable end last week, with all of the items that were purchased by the students at Sunbury Antiques Market finding buyers!! Thanks



skills at the same time. If all that sounds like a lot, then you won't believe what else we got up to; namely planning, designing and creating the

to Harry and the team at Windsor Auctions, our keen bargain hunters' were able to experience the excitement of the saleroom as their items went under the hammer. The whole thing was broadcast online, with members of GR6 following on their computers. It seems our students have a natural talent for the antiques game, as every team made a profit and no item was left unsold. The auction was an amazing experience, and capped off a lengthy project that it's hoped has fired their imaginations. Along the way our young adults have discovered a whole new industry to think about when they ponder their next steps. They've also met some real characters on their trips to the auction house and market, practiced communication skills in new situations and environments, worked as a team and had lots of fun!



of the highlights of autumn on the plot include the many jokes shared whilst working on the plot, the HUGE bonfire we built to celebrate November 5th, and taking advantage of the plentiful opportunities for turning fallen leaves into compost.

Being a community minded lot, the top highlight was the day we spent getting positively filthy helping to prepare a new nature reserve at the site. That project is being led by the Windsor Allotments and Home Gardeners Association (WAHGA), which oversee the Clewer park allotments, and we were more than happy to lend a hand. Plans are afoot for much more future involvement in the nature reserve, which will become an amazing learning resource.



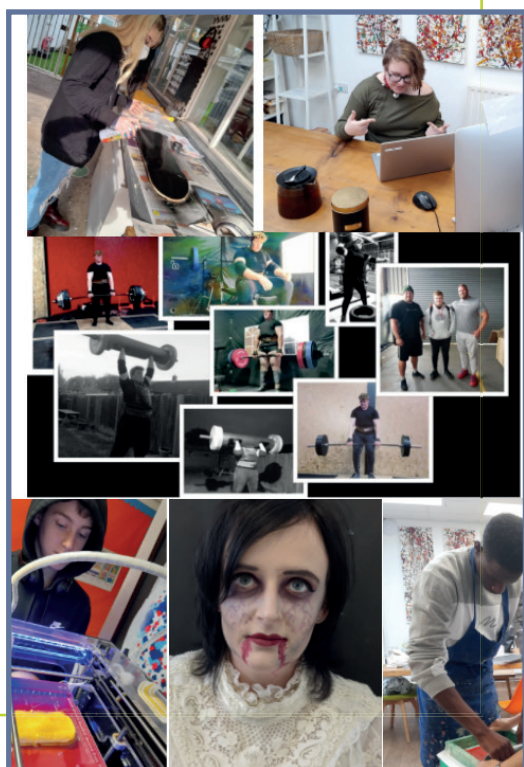
developing knowledge of design - designing skateboards and textile printing onto clothing, presenting skills - presenting on Twitch, documentary skills - documenting the journey of a real life strongman, SFX makeup and photography - All pupils have shown great planning skills, self awareness and evaluation skills in the undertaking of these projects.

Snow Centre

Pupils went on a well-deserved rewards trip to Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead at the end of this term. Some learnt to Snowboard others had a lesson in Skiing, while fun was had by others hurtling down the slope on a giant ring. A fun place to visit should you like to learn more about the sport, and a place we will definitely visit again!

Arts Award

Year 11 pupils have made a great start to their Arts Award projects by completing their first projects exploring their chosen art forms. They have been working on projects



Lot 214



1/2

EST: £10 - £20

Lot 214

Two Simpson bobble head character toy figures. Comprising of Mr Burns and Chief Wiggum made by Funko. Unboxed

GR6 Market Garden

Our GR6 students aren't afraid of getting their hands dirty, and have been down the Market Garden come rain or shine (and even frost!) this term. Some

GRK

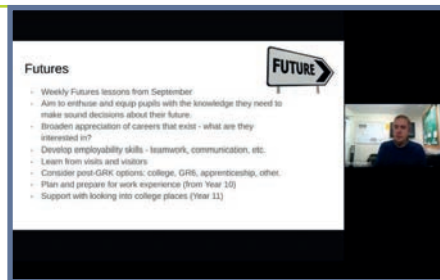
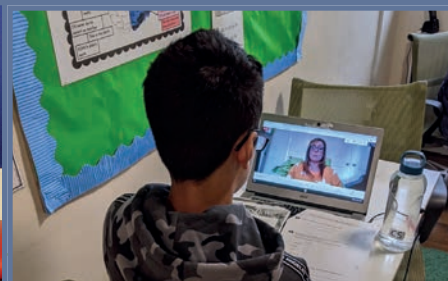
Reward Trips

Well done to Orlando for a well deserved G-Buck Reward Trip to the Rural Life Centre in Tilford. Orlando spent the day enjoying everything they had to offer including farm machinery, workshops and learning about the horse ambulance. He enjoyed lunch onsite and the staff there commented on his excellent historical knowledge.

Also, well done to Curtis & Joe who enjoyed their Reward Trip iFLY in Basingstoke where they enjoyed two flights of indoor skydiving. The boys had a great time, were both able to fly unaided for some of their second flights and finally were excellent ambassadors for the school.

Parent Online Meet

We have hosted two Parent Online Meets this term, which gave us an opportunity to involve and support parents/carers with pupils' online learning and learning from home. We discussed the curriculum, gave a tour of the new build and talked through



some coming events. We were also able to give crash course in Google Classroom!

The Meets were well received and we will keep them up in the New Year. This has proved to be a great way to meet whilst we live through the pandemic.

Go-Karting

We had a brilliant end to the half term with a trip to TeamSport Go Karting in Farnborough. The pupils were great, the competition was very hot, plenty of superb driving on show and at the end of it some very happy pupils and staff.

1:1

Online 1:1 sessions have continued to go strongly this term, with some pupils opting for two sessions a week to give their English, Maths and Science a super charge! Attendance remains high and we are really proud of the effort our pupils are putting into their learning.

New Additions

We have a new addition to our GRK animal family. He is a hedgehog called Hubert and is currently in hibernation in a secure, yet cosy, hutch. When he wakes up in the spring he will move house to live down by our allotment. He is settling in well and pupils are enjoying checking in on him. We have also welcomed in two new ferrets Loki and Leo. They have joined Lexie in the enclosure and are getting on well.



New Build

Our brand new building is finished and we've moved in! Taxis are now dropping off and picking up from our new entrance and lessons have been taking place there. This is very exciting for GRK and has already enhanced learning with





the new facilities and space. This work has been ongoing since the start of term, a huge thank you to everyone involved in the project.

4D

Every other Friday at GRK we welcome in a guest to lead our 4th Dimension lesson. These lessons work alongside Futures to show pupils what other careers there are on offer and give them a taster of enrichment activities to trial and see if they enjoy them. This has included a samba drumming workshop with Tim Karp, Yoga workshop with Naomi Jackson, cake decorating with Amy O'Guynn, Dental Hygiene with Jo Wilkins and Tile Art with local artist Laurence Morgan. Thank you to all those professionals for giving us their time and offering us such a wonderful opportunity.

Wings Project

Our eldest pupil has taken on a horse box conversion project with the help of Scott. He works on it regularly with the plan to turn it into a coffee shop and snack bar in the future. It is coming on leaps and bounds. Brakes have been fixed, the tyres have been replaced, a fridge has been donated and the welding has started. We hope for the younger pupils to gain work experience from this in the future once it has been completed. Dave 'The Welder'



visits weekly as a volunteer to support him and we would like to give him a big thank you for his time and work.

Online School

Pupils have engaged with online school once a fortnight since returning in September. This keeps pupils up to date and practicing online learning but with a twist. They have enjoyed taking home their home learning boxes complete with Chromebook, ingredients to cook their lunch, resources for lessons as well as breakfast cereal and milk. It also reduces our carbon footprint as an eco school. The online school has developed pupils independent learning as well as keeping us prepared to get through Lockdown 2. The pupils are really working well with the GSuite for Education allowing us to offer a wider range of subjects including Music 1:1, Coding and Cooking whilst maintaining Maths and English 1:1s alongside other enrichment activities.

PJ Day

Just before half term GRK hosted a PJ Day to focus on the wellbeing of pupils, but also to raise money for our sister school in Ghana. Pupils and staff were donating clothes whilst wearing their onesies,

PJs and dressing gowns. Pupils enjoyed a screening of Mulan in the new build with popcorn and hot chocolate whilst Group A worked on their Maths, English and Science GCSEs. Then after a pizza lunch pupils opted for a range of activities including spa, mug painting, crispy cake making, bush craft, warhammer, music campfire and much more. It was a wonderful day shared by pupils and staff.



Staff

We have welcomed new staff to GRK this term - Alec Murray has joined our LSA team and will be supporting our teachers during his gap year. James Mullett is our new cleaner, both bringing their wonderful skills to GRK.

Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Ally who has just had his 50th birthday on the 4th December, and to Rebecca on the same day, also to Alec who was on 17 November, and Loris on 6 December We hope you had fantastic birthdays!

Next to celebrate are Stirling and Emily who share their birthdays on 31 January with Ronnie on 1 February and Curtis on 9 February. We hope you all have very happy birthdays!

Coffee Corner

Next term we will be introducing Coffee Corner, a virtual get together for parents and carers to chat together in an informal Meet. It will give parents an opportunity to share thoughts,

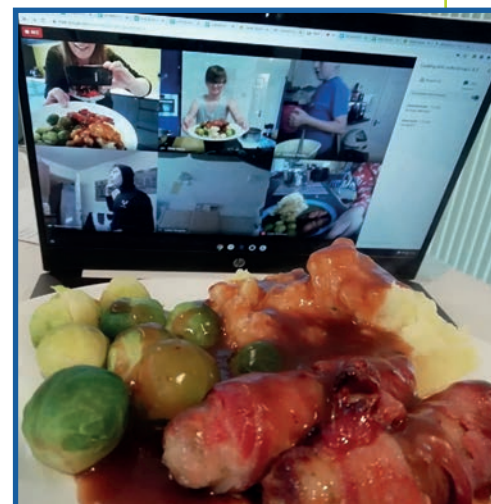
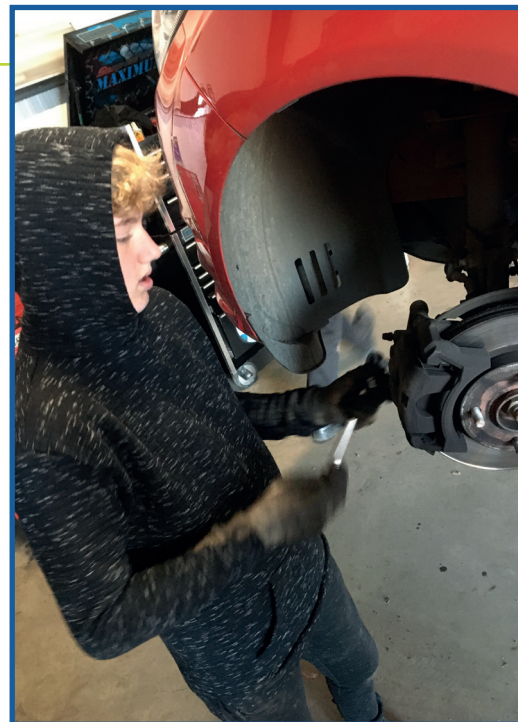
tips and advice and discuss what's on your mind with one another and will be open to past and present parents. A member of staff and our parent advisor will be there too to help guide the sessions. They'll take place every half term following straight after the Parent Online Meet.

Mechanics

Andy, our onsite mechanic, has kindly been giving up his time to work with two of our older pupils, inspecting a vehicle prior to MOT and changing the brake pads. We have also got a Citroen Berlingo for them to work on in the new year.

Online cooking

Online cooking continues to be a real hit with our students. From starting with basic skills in the kitchen back in March, to ending our term making a full christmas lunch which consisted of pigs in blankets, mashed potatoes, sprouts and gravy! We are so very proud of their achievements!



For up to date news and events visit our social media channels and our blog thegreenroomschool.com/blog

Term Dates

Last day of term: Friday 11 December
Inset day: Monday 4 December
First day of term: Tuesday 5 December
Half term: 15 - 19 February