

# TWA Telegraph - Ninth Edition - Bumper Summer Edition!



Welcome to the **ninth** edition of the TWA Telegraph!



In this **BUMPER SUMMER** issue

- **Welcome from the Headteacher**
- **Meet a member of staff**
- **Around the School**
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## Welcome from the Headteacher

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*WOW! We are already on the ninth edition of the TWA Telegraph! In this edition, you get to meet every class at TWA and learn about some of the exciting things they have been up to this year.*

*It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another academic year, it only feels like yesterday that we were in September and here we are at the end.*

*The next Academic Year marks another important milestone in TWA's development seeing us start Year 10 for the first time. It has been great to work with students to develop our options package and allow them the choice of qualifications they will do in Years 10 and 11 leading to accredited outcomes for them.*

*Next year also sees TWA grow again to its capacity of 80 young people, just over 2 years ago the school started with 6 students!*

*Please also take time to check the important dates that has details of training days and school opening times.*

*I hope you have a happy, restful and safe Summer Holidays and I look forward to seeing everyone in September when students return on Thursday 5th September 2024.*

*Best wishes*

*Paul*

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Meet a member of staff -

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*I am Vikki, one of the Assistant Headteachers at TWA. I joined the academy a year ago following a chance visit to see what the academy was about. I was blown away on that visit with everything that has been achieved in such a short space of time since opening in 2021 and knew I wanted to be a part of its story and work with the amazing staff and students here.*

*I have been teaching for the last 14 years, most of which has been within SEND as this is where my passions lie. I knew when I was training to be a teacher that I wanted to make a difference in young people's lives and support them in achieving their best and I strive every day to provide the students with opportunities to do so, whether that is a small win or something that we have been working towards for a longer period of time, I am extremely proud to see each student achieve each and every win.*

*I joined the academy as a year 7 teacher. I have since had the opportunity to become the Assistant headteacher with responsibility for KS3 / KS4. A responsibility that I am thoroughly enjoying, and I am excited to see what the students can achieve moving forward into KS4.*

*I enjoy being adventurous in my spare time and visiting new places both here and abroad, meeting new people and experiencing different cultures. I enjoy hiking and I am currently completing the Pennine Way in parts which I hope to complete this year. I will also be completing a skydive for charity this month which I am very excited about.*

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Around the school!

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*Below is just a snippet of some of the amazing things we have done this year and it's great to be able to share them with you!*

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Year 5



Year 5 designed and built a cable car out of Lego as part of their Design Technology topic. The students worked together to build the stations and the actual cable car. It took some great problem-solving skills to get the motor working, but the cable car travelled between the stations.



We have been learning about party food around the world. The students researched and then chose dishes to prepare. Some of the chosen dishes were sausage rolls, lemon drizzle cake, sweet and sour chicken, and spring rolls. We enjoyed tasting and reviewing them.



In PE we have enjoyed cricket and athletics in the warmer weather.

As part of our work in Science and Outdoor learning we have planted seeds and nurtured, cress, cauliflower, runner beans, peas, carrots, and green beans. We are looking forward to our harvest.



As part of our work in DT with cable cars Year 5 took a trip to Drayton Manor. The boys both got to go on different rides and enjoyed an ice cream as a treat. All of year 5 enjoyed this trip and were on their best behaviour throughout.

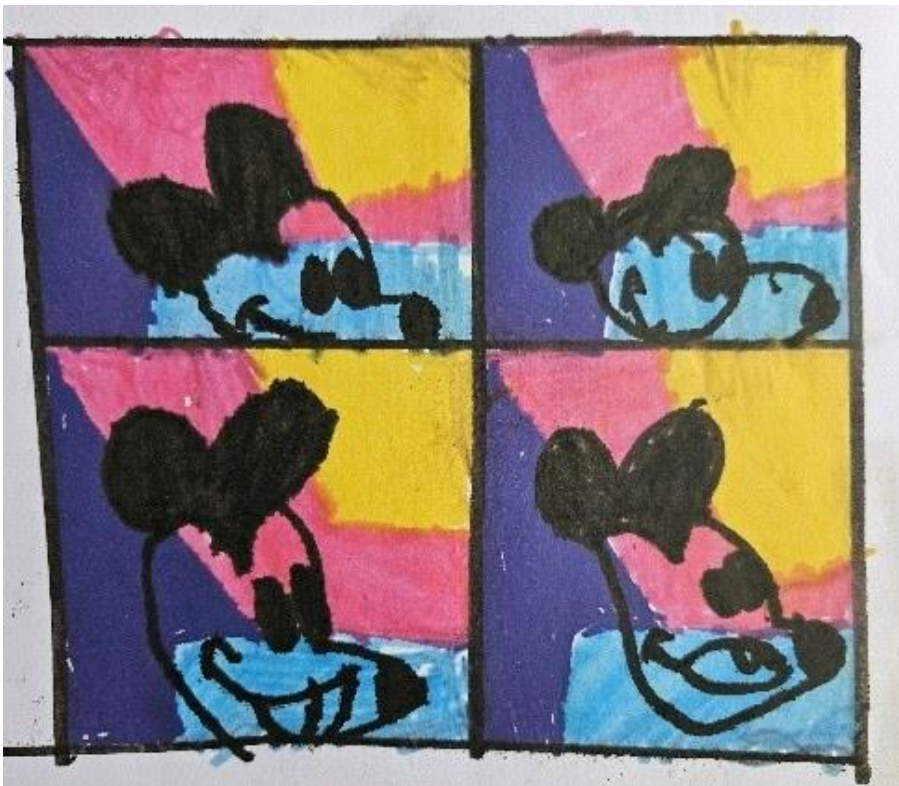
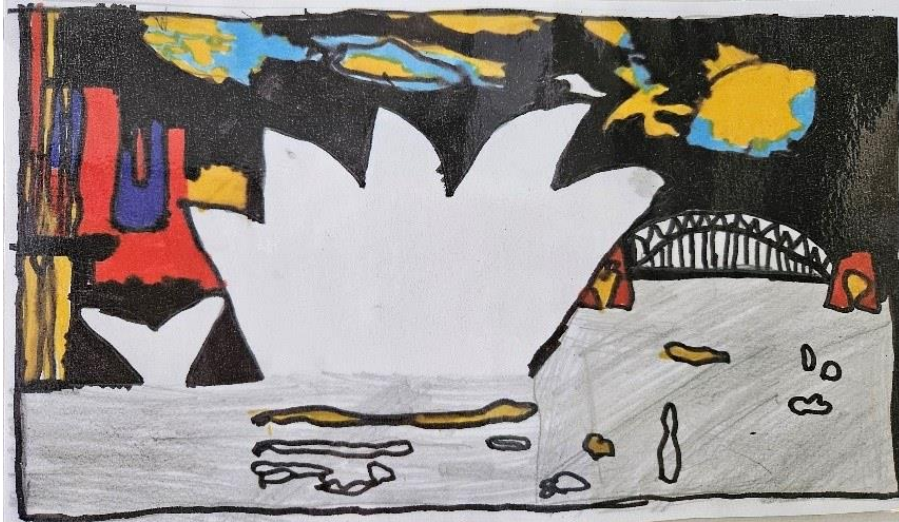




## Year 6

Year 6 have been very creative this year and have been working on developing their art skills through creating different types of artwork. Most recently, pupils have been working on creating landscapes and pop art and have worked hard to recreate existing artwork as well as their own artwork.





Creativity has also come out in the Year 6 pod team, with a range of window displays being created throughout the year by the pod team, for celebrations including Christmas, Easter, St Patrick's Day and St George's Day, as well as our BEAR display as a permanent fixture on our windows.



Pupils have also been developing their social skills and teamwork both within and outside of lessons. In outdoor learning, we have been developing communication, perseverance and teamwork skills through completing a range of challenges as a group. Pupils have also used these social skills and problem-solving skills through games in the classroom including chess and 'One Night a Werewolf' which brings out the competitive side in both staff and pupils!





One pupil also completed the end of Key Stage 2 SATS assessments, working really hard to complete all the tests and as a celebration at the end of the week, making doughnuts like the ones from holiday!



Year 7



Class 7a

### **Technology**

During Technology, children took part in a garden project where they worked together to grow produce that they can use at school and at home. The children worked together to plant the following vegetables:

- Potatoes
- Sweet chilli
- Spring onion
- Onion

- Beetroot







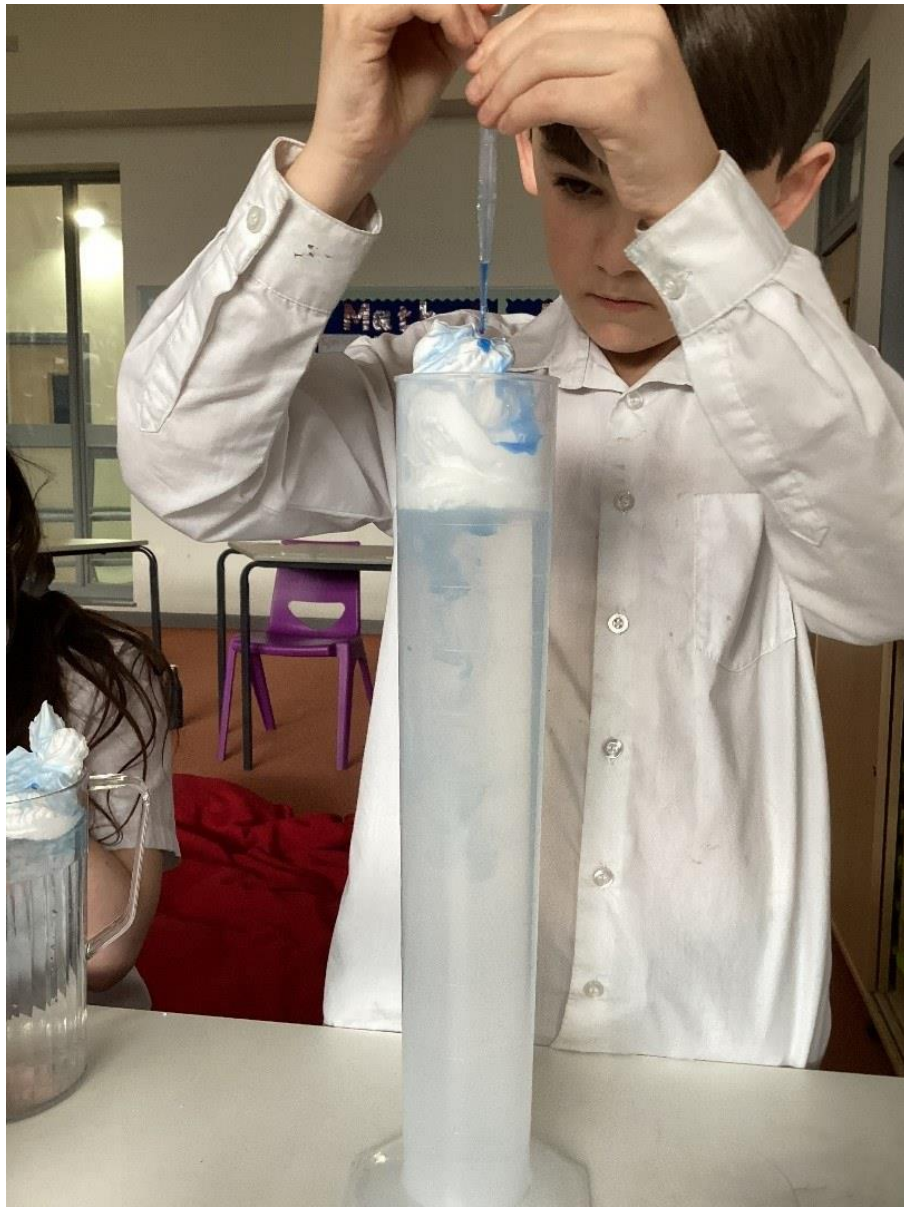


## Humanities

During our Humanities lessons we have learned all about the weather and what clouds are and why it rains. The children were able to recognise during the experiment that:

- The shaving cream represents the clouds
- The water represents the air.
- The coloured water represents rain. As the coloured water saturates the “cloud”, it gets heavy and eventually is so heavy that it can no longer hold the water.







## Science

Children were learning all about forces and the different types of forces there are. Children took part in coming up with their own activity using resources within the classroom. Children needed to think about the object they were going to use and how the force was going to be implemented (is it from a ramp, pushing along a flat surface, rough service).

### **Contact Force:**

Throwing water balloons against a wall.

### **Gravity Force:**

Dropping a ball from the same height.

**Gravity Force:**

Creating a ramp and pushing a car down.







### **Pumpkin Picking**

Children took part in our annual event of pumpkin picking and carving. Children are able to go pumpkin picking within our school grounds then they use carving tools to carve their own pumpkin using a design they have planned.







## Class 7b

During our year together in 7B the students have achieved so many amazing things. All students have worked very hard this year, and I am very proud of everything they have accomplished in such a short time. I am extremely privileged to be their teacher and I can't wait to see what next year brings.

In **Food technology**, the students had the opportunity to create a wide variety of sweet and savoury treats. For Halloween, the students had to design a treat of their own after carrying out research of what types of products were available to buy. The results were quite spooky.

At Christmas the students had the opportunity to create their own version of a 'mince pie'. The results were extremely delicious!









## Halloween

During Halloween the students had the opportunity to carve their own pumpkins. This was quite a difficult skill to master but the students persevered, and the end results were amazing. They were all very proud of their pumpkins.









## Science

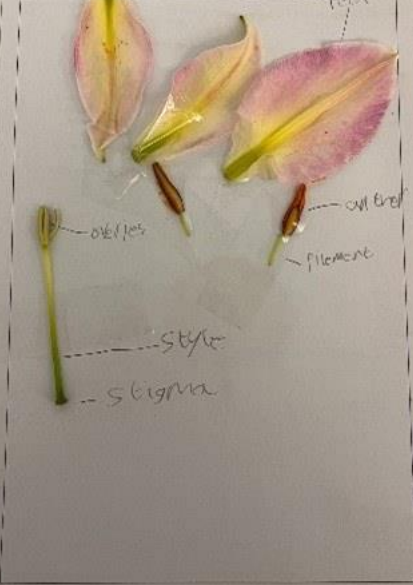
During our science lessons we have had the opportunity to carry out a number of experiments and use different pieces of Scientific equipment. Some examples include dissecting a flower and studying an onion cell under a microscope. The students took their role as Scientists very seriously as you can see!

George

the 100s

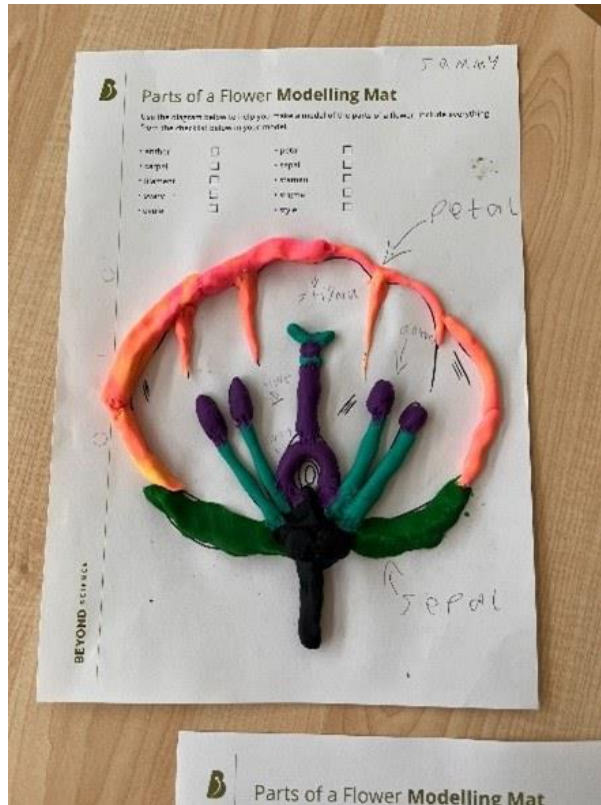
### Flower Dissection

Label the parts of the flower in the box with sticky notes, and label each part with its name.



BEYOND SCIENCE





### Chinese New Year

For Chinese New Year the students made their own versions of a Chinese lantern along with their very own dragon.





### **Grow your own!**

Our class had to opportunity to grow our own vegetables, the students first planted the seeds in small pots and keep them inside whilst ensuring they took care of them until they were ready to plant outside. The students decided to use recycled tyres to plant their vegetables in.





## Art

And finally, in Art students were asked to design and then create their own monsters after we studied monsters in children's books.

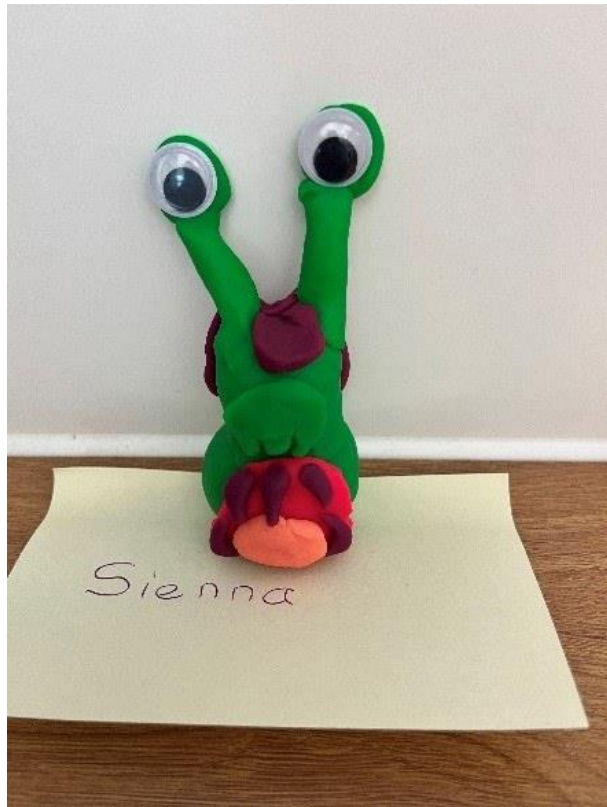




Corey



Alfie



## Year 8

### Class 8a

It's been an exciting and eventful 2024 for class 8a! Over the past few months, two classes have merged; 8A and 8C making a new class which has 7 students in. It has been a welcomed challenge amalgamating the two groups and readjustment is an ongoing process. Everyone is learning to build new relationships with each other and are getting used to new faces. It is character-building for the students to learn how to exist and thrive with new personalities in the class and to settle into new routines but all in all a challenge which has mostly been met with positivity!

Riley has been successfully attending 'Right Tracks' every Monday which he says, "has helped me cope with school better cause now I look forward to Mondays".

Evan has been successfully attending 'Young Leadership' activities which he really enjoys. He seems to respond well to the Army Man Tom and in one session built a giant structure using large foam mats with others. A large group of students worked together to achieve a gigantic vertical structure getting it to reach as high as possible and all seemed to thoroughly enjoy it from building to the ultimate group destruction.

Maths has been a consistent win for the majority of the class with most students solving lots of tricky questions daily both independently or with TA support. Mckenzie was positively beaming when discussing Maths; "It's always Maths for me put Maths!". Whereas Lacey and Lily have taken more to Food Technology. Lacey says she really enjoys learning about the different ingredients needed for different dishes.

Another consistent win for most of the class has been the new routine of going down to the lab for science. A change of environment, topic and teacher seems to have been a great win for most students in 8A.

The class have been transitioning recently ready for the new school year and all staff are mega excited as they have been given fantastic news...they will get to keep their current pod!!! Everyone has been busy redecorating the pod, filling it with new posters, making it their own and putting up new displays.

All in all, it was a busy few months with much enthusiasm from new Teacher Jess for what the future will bring!

### Class 8b

8B had a great summer term! From looking at bar charts and data in Maths to teaching students about leadership in PE.

One of the many highlights has been the intense football matches; where we get the competitiveness of a World Cup final, right here at The Warwickshire Academy! This is a chance for our students to show their skills as well as their sportsmanship and leadership qualities.

In English, we have been looking at an interesting book about Refugees. This has caused some great discussions about what life would have been like as a Refugee born and raised in the camp. Some of our students even came up with their own charity called the FRAY Foundation which was their way of

helping to shelter refugees! These amazing conversations have carried over into our citizenship lessons where we had thought-provoking discussions about deforestation and climate change!

This has been a great term for important discussions and eye-opening conversations, which will continue through to the end of the year!

## Year 9

### Class 9a

We started the year where the students designed the classroom how they wanted it and were able to take full ownership of their learning space.

They have enjoyed improving their football skills and have taken a particular interest in the gym. They have started to think about how to live a healthy lifestyle and are frequently cooking their own lunches and going to the gym together. Also one of our students has explored makeup and developed skills from one of our TA's who is a makeup artist.

We have also celebrated the wedding of our lovely TA Jessie in May and birthdays for both staff and students.

We also had a great day celebrating "Hello Yellow" and spoke a lot about mental health and what it means to different people as well as designing a jacket to remind us that we are all here to support each other.

Students have made great academic progress and started to think about their future. This was supported by attending a careers workshop finding out about different careers and routes.

We also hosted our first careers cafe where two of the student's served tea and coffee and had an opportunity to meet employers and colleges to discuss their future options. The students did really well manage orders and serving refreshments to our visitors.

Towards the end of the year, we have noticed a massive development in the maturity of our students, and they have started to work as peer mentors with younger students helping them to regulate and teaching them skills in football.





## Class 9b

The past year has gone by so quickly. It doesn't seem 2 minutes since we were moving from our old POD as 8B and becoming 9B, the first students to be Year 9 in TWA, and also the first students to move into a more mainstream classroom. This was a big change for the class, but they showed their maturity by rising to this new challenge and taking it in their stride, adjusting to the new space with fewer rooms, but also with a higher expectation, and they did not disappoint.

It is hard to think that when we started in September 2023, 9B consisted of 4 students. At the time of writing this, we have doubled in size and now have a full compliment of 8 students. This in itself was a massive change, not only for students, but for the staff as well! Again, the students took it in their

stride and they have become a strong, tolerant community who have at various points through the year shown their empathy and compassion for both other students and staff alike.

There have been many opportunities for the students over the year. Thinking back before Christmas, students engaged in a Connect 4 competition. This gave them the opportunity to pit their wits against each other, and knowing how competitive the boys are, it was to make for an anticipated experience! What was positive was the respect that they had for each other, especially being gracious in defeat, and this shows perfectly how the students have built and developed that maturity through their collective experiences at TWA.

Morning times bring a competitive edge to the students with Quizzes of their choice, and what we don't know about British Super Bikes (Thanks Ben!) and Greek Mythology (How many times, Jake?) I would argue is not actually worth knowing. It was an important time that allowed each student to have their choice of subject, but allowed the choice in a controlled way through a random choice each day. We have since moved on to include 'Would You Rather' and General Knowledge quizzes into the mix, and this has firmly become a settled and enjoyed part of the day.

Young Leaders was a session that started back in year 8, and has been extremely successful that the whole class were invited to take part through the whole of Year 9. Through Tom (the facilitator) the students have developed skills working in teams not only with themselves but with younger students, and this has given them the opportunity to grow and mature and learn skills that they can use in their working lives and also their social times both in and out of school. Tower building was a particular favourite of the class, and they worked hard to create a stable tower many metres in height.

RRR time has allowed students to explore different interests, from drawing and creating pictures from a wide range of subjects, to exploring musical instruments, and even cooking and creating exquisite culinary masterpieces. Arts and crafts have been a firm favourite over the year and have seen lots of different items created and enjoyed.

Interventions play a massive and important part in student life at TWA, and all of the class access LEGO sessions, which sees students work in groups of 3 to create items with only verbal instructions. Sometimes, students even like to go to more than one session, and this shows just how important the time with others is. Other interventions have included a weekly Dungeons and Dragons club (DungeonMaster Rich, I thank you!) that works across Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, time with our Interventions Manager, Kate (big thanks to Kate who runs amazing sessions and also takes some students into the Food Tech room to cook)

9B have also taken part in a selection of different workshops, ranging from Careers to Knife Crime from a survivor of a knife crime attack, and also enjoyed using VR headsets to put them right in the heart of situations that help to educate in what the correct choices would be in given situations. By the time the newsletter comes out, they will have also completed a Communications workshop as part of their PSHCE education (meticulously planned by Ellie) to help with their development towards their adult life and their time after they leave TWA.

Finally, it has to be said that the students have really developed an understanding with the staff team in the POD, and like any family, there were grumbles, but the respect that they have shown towards us and the understanding even in the face of adversity has been a monumental development for them. I cannot thank the hard work of all the staff team throughout the year, with a big thank you to both Aalisha and Rosana who have shown just what fabulous adults we have at TWA, and whom I have been proud to have been with in the 9B team. Your children could not have a more caring,

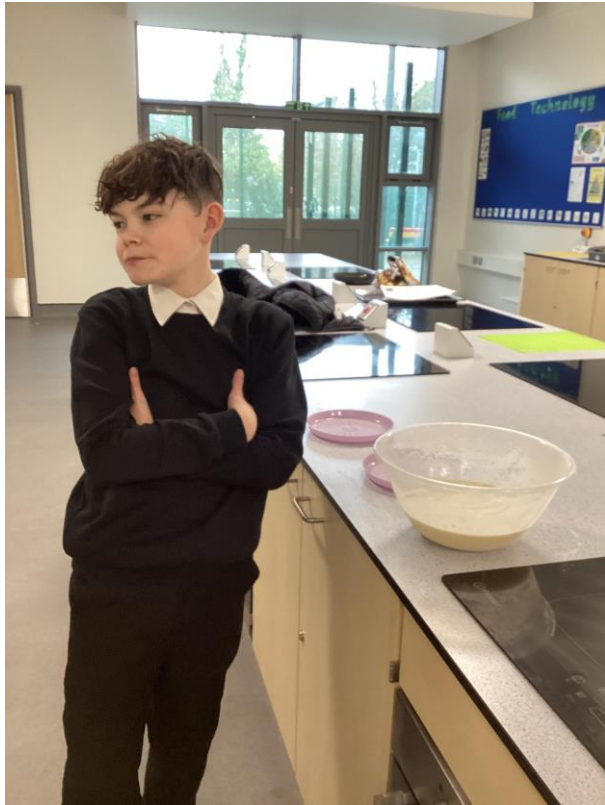
helpful and supportive set of adults working with and for them, and I am sure that they do appreciate all of the work and effort that they have put in on their behalf (even if they haven't realised at the time!)

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the class teacher of 9B for the past 2 years, and it is bittersweet to leave them as they move into Year 10, knowing that they have been given every opportunity to succeed in their future studies and for the exams, but also now not being able to work with them every day.

I would like to say a big thank you to you, the parents, carers and families of these amazing students that I have had the privilege to work with over the past 2 years – I firmly believe that the communication and consistency between home and school is crucial to the success of each and every student, and I have been so lucky and humbled to have had that support from you all.

Enjoy a well deserved Summer break!

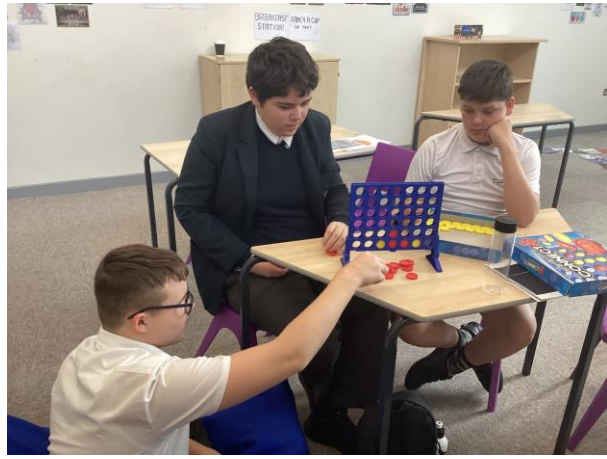
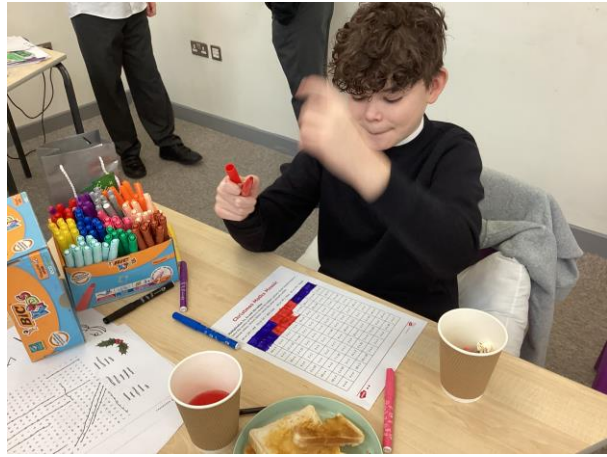






















## Independent Transport Training



This is something that we have recently started with the students at TWA. This is to give students the opportunity to travel using public transport and make decisions on how to get from one location to the other, creating a sense of independence. This opportunity is a great way to give a strong sense of confidence, achievement and lifelong skills through journey planning and personal safety skills.

The skills being taught and learnt through this intervention:

- Time management

- Money management
- Problem-solving
- Social skills
- Communication skills
- Navigation skills

The pupils have engaged in the activity and enjoyed being independent on the bus. The pupils felt proud of themselves and were ready to go on their next journeys.





## Sensory Room

At The Warwickshire Academy, we are fortunate to be able to provide our students with a Sensory Room. The room is a specially designed space that provides individuals with a controlled and immersive sensory experience. A sensory room can stimulate or calm different senses, such as sight, sound, touch, and movement.

The sensory room is used as a therapy or a learning tool for people with sensory processing disorders, disabilities, cognitive conditions, or limited communication skills. Our students can access the sensory room when they need to be in a calm quiet environment. We often use music in the sensory

room as another tool to engage the students in 1-1 interventions as well as small group sessions. In the sensory room, the students have the opportunity to practice self-regulation.



## Dungeons & Dragons Club



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*Once a week, our party meets to train the skills of our students as well as their cognitive abilities in areas such as problem-solving and making choices that have both direct and indirect impacts on the story.*

*The students have to adapt to these choices they make, with both negative and positive outcomes arising. They have all been showing fantastic progress in learning their character sheets and working out the equations that correlate between their dice rolls and character stats. D&D incorporates many social and mental skills to allow the students to open up, use their imagination, and have a fun time doing so!*

*The core areas we focus on and improve in D&D are as follows:*

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- *Social Skills Development Cognitive Benefits Therapeutic Applications*
    - *Communication Problem-Solving Therapy-Involved Sessions*
      - *Teamwork Creativity Safe Environment*
      - *Empathy Memory Learning and Education*
    - *Self-Confidence Emotional Regulation Reading and Writing*
      - *Achievement Stress Relief Math skills*
    - *Role-Playing Emotional Expression Building Resilience*
      - *Friendship Handling Failure Inclusion*
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## **Important Dates**



*School finishes for Summer on **Friday 19th July 2024***

*School returns on **Thursday 5th September 2024***

*School finishes for October Half Term on **Friday 25th October 2024***

*School returns on **Monday 4th November 2024***

*School finishes for Christmas Holiday **Friday 20th December 2024***

*Training Days (School closed to all students)*

*Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September 2024*

*Please check the School website for the most up-to-date term dates:*

*[The Warwickshire Academy - Term dates \(thrive.ac\)](http://thrive.ac)*

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Contact us



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*We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas about what **you** would like to see in future issues of the TWA Telegraph.*

*Contact us at [enquiry@wa.thrive.ac](mailto:enquiry@wa.thrive.ac) to let us know your ideas or to give us any feedback*

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