



CORLEY ACADEMY

Inclusion Aspiration Perseverance Independence

NEWSLETTER

February 2024

Headteacher Welcome

We've reached the half way point of this academic year, would you believe! Even with a short 5 week half term, we have still managed to pack a lot into that time. You will see in this edition of the newsletter exciting opportunities our students have been involved in from taking part in our brand new School Choir, for both students and staff, to sporting success at the Sporty Minds Tennis Festival. All students thoroughly enjoyed their experiences and were a credit to Corley Academy.

Sporty Minds Tennis Festival

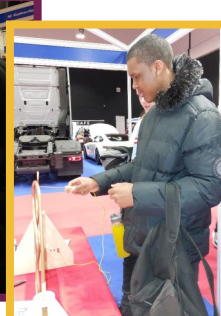
Class 9 Visited David Lloyd Clubs in Solihull to take part in the Sporty Minds Tennis Festival. We were fortunate enough to use the amazing facilities on offer and also received expert tennis and squash coaching, from local club professionals. All students thoroughly enjoyed the trip, which also allowed us to collaborate with other SEND schools in the local area. At the end of the visit, Corley Academy were awarded the 'Sporty Minds Trophy' which rewards the students who shown the best effort and work ethic on the day, so a huge congratulations to Class 9 for the award! Mr Zinkus and Mr Thornton were extremely impressed with how Class 9 conducted themselves whilst representing Corley Academy. A special thank you to Mr Panther and Ms Brookes for their help on the trip too!



Further events to be hosted by Sporty Minds during this academic year will include Rock Climbing, Trampolining, Hockey and many more. We are hoping to give as many students as possible the chance to represent Corley Academy!

National Apprenticeship Show

Students from Year 11 attended the National Apprenticeship Show at the Coventry Building Society Arena. Students met a range of exhibitors from different industries including the Army, Royal Air Force, Greene King, Mercedes-Benz, Rolls-Royce, Arden University, Kier, Severn Trent and Starbucks. Students explored a range of different career paths including apprenticeships on offer, but also helped them consider potential careers across a range of industries in computing, IT, technology, construction, emergency and uniform services, manufacturing, hospitality, retail, sports and leisure and many others. Students represented themselves and the school impeccably and should be proud of themselves.



Noughts and Crosses novel study

Class 11 are finally at the end of our emotional and in depth novel study of Malorie Blackman's 'twisted' love story 'Noughts and Crosses'. In a modern take on Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', this novel takes us on a journey through a world of conflict, prejudice and judgement where love prevails. Class 11 were keen to tell me not to give any 'spoilers' but shared that they would recommend this novel to everyone as it is an 'emotional rollercoaster'. Our learning focus will now be on reviewing the novel, identifying key extracts where Blackman explores the themes of race and conflict as well as getting creative with an alternative ending. Class 11 are now moving on to autobiographical study as we approach Spring 2, focusing on 'Boy' by Roald Dahl and the way in which his early memories or stories from his mother about his past influenced his own wonderful novel writing in classics such as 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and 'The Witches'.



Colourful Chemistry

In Key Stage 3 Science, students have been learning about the environment and acid rain this half term. As part of this topic, students have been demonstrating their key skills to success by being involved and working as a team to investigate acids and alkalis. Universal Indicator is used to show whether something is acidic or alkaline. By changing colour, it can measure pH from 1 to 14. Hydrochloric acid causes the indicator to turn red and sodium hydroxide turns it purple. Students have been making a rainbow of colours to show the perfect pH range.

Teatime Treats

The cooking enrichment group have been focussing on teatime treats this half term. They have demonstrated their baking skills yet again, making some scrumptious scones, light and fluffy Victoria sponge cake, gooey jam tarts and fabulous flapjacks. Pancakes have also been cooked and flipped to celebrate Shrove Tuesday.



Post 16 tour of Hereward College

Post 16 students joined a tour of Hereward College to get a view of the facilities and courses on offer. Students enjoyed a buffet lunch, made cakes in the catering area and had afternoon tea with some ex-Corley students. It was lovely to have a catch up with our past students and hear about their experiences of studying at Hereward College.

Music News

There is lots of exciting news from the Music department this half term. Here is a quick summary:

Rockschool Exam Success

Congratulations to two of our Music students from Year 11 who have recently passed Rockschool exams! One student passed Grade 4 Drums with Merit and another passed Grade 1 Guitar with Merit. Both worked extremely hard to achieve these great results. Well done!

School Choir

Corley Academy has a school choir! Adele from Adele's School of Music launched a new choir for students and staff at the school this half term. We are learning to sing 'Best Day Of My Life' in two parts and hope to add some percussion too. Watch out for a performance soon!

KS3 Music

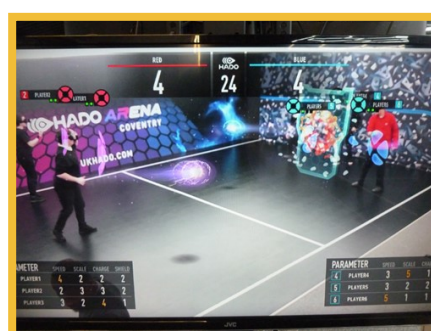
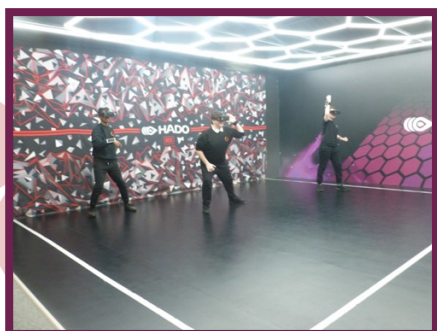
Year 7 are learning to play piano this half term, using the right hand to play a melody using the notes C, D, E, F and G. They are learning to recognise notes of the music stave and using them to play a melody. There have been some lovely performances so far!

Year 8 and 9 are learning to play Brazilian Samba! They have learned about the origins of the music, Brazilian carnivals and the different instruments that are used when playing the music. We are also using music notation to tell us what to play on our instrument. It can get a little loud in lessons, but most agree that it is a fun way to spend a lesson.




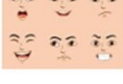


HADO Tournament and PE lessons

At the end of the Autumn term, we were invited to take part in the VR Sport of HADO against other schools in our School Games Sports Network. This was the first time many students and staff had experienced this new exciting sport. It is a virtual reality sport, similar in rules to dodgeball but where students move and throw with physical action, then virtually in headsets they see energy balls and shields appear in their screen. PE staff were so impressed with how engaging the sport was and accessible for all students, that we are now taking our Year 10 students to take part in some of their PE lessons.



Dramatic Interpretations of Macbeth

Year 8 and 9 students have been reading in a different way during their study of Macbeth. They have been reading vocal and physical skills used by performers in key scenes from the play. The meaning drawn from this has then been used in their own dramatic interpretations.

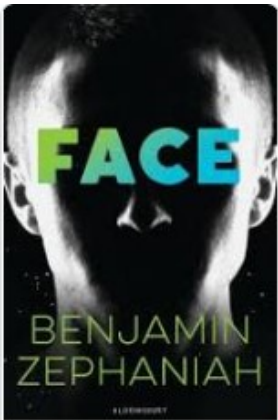
VOCAL		PHYSICAL	
Voice	Facial Expressions	Body Language	Gesture
			
Scream	Frown	Shaking/nodding head	Raising hands
Shout	Cheerful	Shrug	Clench fists
Mumble	Eyes narrowed	Slow	Rubbing hands
Stutter	Wide eyed	Quick	Rubbing eyes
Whisper / quiet	Eyebrows raised	Shoulders hunched	Scratching head
Slow	Mouth wide open	Leaning	Hands on hips
Quick	Rolling eyes	Pacing	Hands behind back
Croaky	Worried	Turning away	Stroking chin
Strong	Stare	Creeping	Head in hands
Clear	Biting lip	Running	Crossing arms

Mr Zinkus Coaches Great Britain to Flag Football success

In January, one of our PE Teachers, Mr Zinkus, travelled to Scotland to coach the Great Britain Flag American Football Team in an International tournament. The Great Britain team performed excellently and after beating a French and Scottish Team in the Quarter Finals and Semi Finals, the team just lost out to an American Team in the Final by one touchdown. Well done Mr Zinkus and the team for their hard fought second place. Corley students will be learning American Football in their PE lessons, so will get to benefit from the expertise of an international coach!



Recommended Reads



Each newsletter we will feature a recommended read or a book review. In this edition of the newsletter, our recommendation comes from Ms Foxon:

'I would recommend the late Benjamin Zephaniah's novel (and also adapted into a playscript) 'Face'. This story follows a young man called Martin who is involved in a car accident, resulting in severe burns to his face. The novel tracks his life before and after the accident including his family and friends' responses to his 'face' but also the difficult lessons he has had to learn along the way. This is by no means an 'easy read' but it is a novel worth reading if you enjoy emotional, humorous and insightful reflections on society, friendships and our deeper connections with others. I would recommend this book for students aged 14 and above.'

*Wishing all our students and families a restful half term.
We welcome students back to school on
Monday 19th February 2024.*