



SPRINGWELL SKY

Where learning matters for everyone

Issue 28 – Summer 2021



THE HEADLINE

As I sit down to write the summer newsletter and reflect on the school year, I can't help but wonder where the last 12 months have gone. We have shared a journey through some very strange times and it finally feels as though the future looks brighter and more certain. Despite the challenges that the year has thrown at us, there continues to be wonderful things happening across our Learning Community.

We would like to say a final goodbye to our fantastic Year 11s, who have shown great courage and resilience in making it through a stressful end to their Springwell career. They are now facing the next phase of their journey, moving on to college or apprenticeships. We wish them the very best of luck. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

It is important to applaud the amazing staff across both our academies who have worked with such care, commitment and passion to support our children and young people and make a difference to our whole school community throughout the pandemic. Thank you!

As many of you will be aware, after 16 years at Springwell, I will be moving on in September to take up a new role within our Trust. I have loved being at Springwell, first as a teacher, then deputy head and

**You're off to Great Places!
Today is your day!
Your mountain is waiting,
So... get on your way!**

-- Dr. Seuss

finally as Head of School and I am immensely proud of the school and its wonderful achievements. Springwell has always been and will continue to be a very special place and my heart is full of fond memories.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of Lydia Harrison as Head of School at Springwell Learning Community. Lydia brings a wealth of experience from both SEMH and Alternative settings and I very much look forward to teaming up with her to ensure a smooth and successful handover. I know that you will give Lydia a warm welcome.

I would like to finish by thanking you all for your superb support, your patience and most importantly for the confidence you have shown in the school throughout the year. This has made a challenging period much more manageable.

Please continue to take care and ensure you enjoy the summer holidays. Regardless of where you go or what you decide to do, I hope you enjoy time relaxing with loved ones.

Warmest regards

Danny Ross

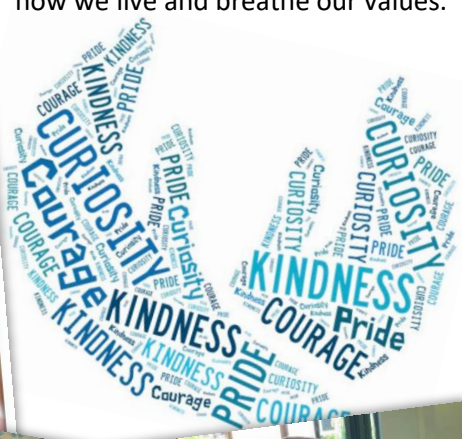
Key dates for the diary – Autumn Term 2021
Academies close for the summer break: **Friday 16th July**
INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Weds 1st September**
Academies open for Autumn Term: **Thursday 2nd September**
INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Friday 8th October**
Academies close for half term: **Friday 22nd October**
Both academies re-open: **Monday 1st November**
INSET Day – Academies closed to pupils: **Fri 26th November**
Academies close for Christmas: **Friday 17th December**
Academies open for Spring Term: **Monday 4th January**



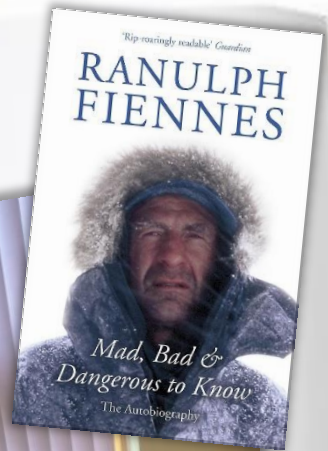
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Our Springwell Values

At Springwell our values are really important to us. We want them to be at the heart of everything we do. Scan the QR code to hear about how we live and breathe our values.



KINDNESS COURAGE CURIOUSITY PRIDE



Book Club Interview – Mr Oates

What is your favourite book and why?

Reading can be brilliant! You can soon fall in love with the knowledge, journeys and feelings you get from reading; experiences you just cannot find in the same way through film, TV or even music. So, picking just one top read is quite difficult. If I have to pick just one, it would have to be 'mad, bad and dangerous to know'. The autobiography of one of my heroes... Ranulph Fiennes.

What inspired you to read the book?

Ranulph is a former soldier, record breaking explorer, adventurer and charity fundraiser He even cut off his own finger to save it from frostbite! Knowing that about him, I was keen to learn about his childhood, early experiences and school life that shaped him into someone with the grit, determination and ability to be the adult he became. I think knowing more about someone you admire, or respect allows you to draw from their life, their experiences or their advice and build that into your own. Ranulph certainly is an exceptional human being that we can all take inspiration from.

What is your favourite character and why?

Richard Sharp from Bernard Cornwell's Sharpe novel series.
I love the historical context but also how Sharp leads through courage and example, although not always with success, he keeps going and keeps learning.

What is your favourite genre?

I really like fact based books, so, true stories and autobiographies are my go to reads. Learning about a period of time, historical events or how someone's life evolved is fascinating.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

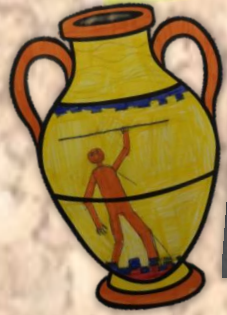
If my double (Brad Pitt) was booked and unable to take the role it would have to be Jason Statham as we have a similar hairline!

It's been a busy term in Year 7

We have plenty to shout about in Class 7 with such a fun filled term! In our Elements lessons we have been busy learning facts about Ancient Greece and their role in the Olympic Games. Did you know that Greece is where the Olympics started, way back in 776 B.C.E?

Throughout our topic we have researched the gladiators, the importance of Zeus and Hera and the way each event took place. We even tried them out ourselves, although we couldn't find a spare chariot hanging around anywhere; can you imagine that!

We got into the mind-set of the ancient Greeks and took our class on a trip to Cannon Hall to try out some of our events and master our ultimate team work skills. We are really proud of the effort our students put in and how they positively encouraged each other throughout the afternoon. They were a pleasure to take out and absolutely brilliant athletes; we would have definitely won some gold medals! Check out our fun filled photos. It was also great to be on a school trip as we continue our journey back to normality post COVID.



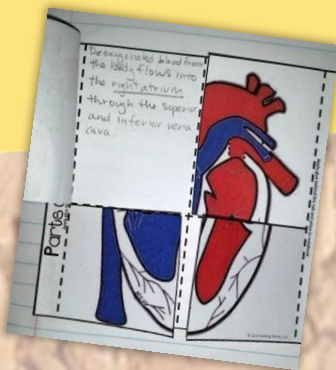
Primary Alternative Academy

This term we have had lots of fun learning about Ancient Greece and the Olympics in our Element's topic. In our class we have done a lot of research on our iPads and have been amazed by some of the facts we have discovered! Did you know the Olympic Games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in south west Greece? We have compared sporting events from the ancient games to the modern Olympics and design Greek vases with our favourite sporting event out of clay! We read all about the different Greek gods and we could not believe that the ancient Olympics were held as part of a religious festival!

In food technology we have looked at healthy living and what diet an athlete needs to keep fit and healthy along with taste testing new fruits and vegetables. So, if there is anything you need to know about the Olympics, you know who to ask!

Science in Primary 4

In our Elements topic we have been researching and learning all about how the athletes who compete in the Olympics look after their bodies with diet and exercise. This lead nicely into our science topic - the circulatory system. We learnt that the heart is a muscle and that there are two types of blood vessels; arteries and veins. Finally, we made some red and blue playdough so that we could make our own hearts.



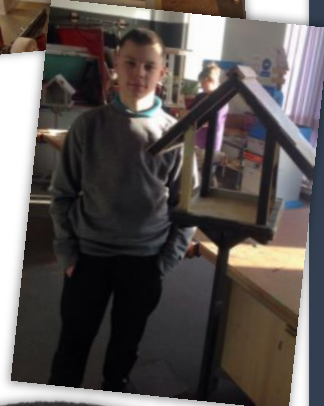
Class of 2021

The day you all thought you were waiting for, and still will be in some cases. However, we have seen so many young people absolutely heartbroken that their school years have come to an end. Some of you have been with us for such a long time, some right the way through from primary others not so long. What we do hope for you all, is that from your time at Springwell Learning Community you are leaving with lots of fond memories, lots of laughs, many qualifications and more importantly a feeling that you are ready to take the next step in your lives.

The final year of your education has been very difficult, many new rules to get used to, whilst still working towards your deserved grades in GCSEs. The mini assessments were not easy but you all overcome those difficulties and showed us what pure determination and resilience you are all made of, we couldn't be prouder of you!!

Many of you have enrolled onto college courses, starting training or starting your chosen career, now is your chance to show the world that you have the knowledge and skills to succeed, we know you can do it.

We hope to see many of you at the GCSE results day where you will find out your final grades for this year. If not then here are our wishes of good luck for all your choices and futures, you deserve the best, never give up Class of 2021.



Year 10

Year 10, like everyone this year, have experienced lots of change and challenge, including a change of teacher. Since Mr Lingard became class teacher at Easter he has been incredibly proud of the resilience and kindness displayed in class, not to mention the brilliant work that has been produced by the pupils.

One thing that has not changed, is their tremendous work ethic and commitment to making good progress. Pupils have worked extremely hard completing their English WOW work and are quick to show off their fine cooking and baking skills. Keep up the great work Year 10.



DEARNE AA

It has been an amazing and continued effort from all year 11 students at Dearne AA. Their resilience to this difficult school year and changes to how exams and assessments would be carried out has been outstanding. The positivity and willingness to succeed in each assessment has hugely impressed all their staff. We have been able to focus on assessments and have a good mix of other activities to engage with and relax. PE sessions have always been competitive and played in great spirits whether it was Tyler smashing the high jump, Kierron and Porscha winning at badminton or Luke with superb javelin technique. DofE biking sessions have been well planned out by students and the welcoming atmosphere they create has helped some new starters settle and find their feet. Well done to you



Magic Moments

from around our Learning Community



DARTON AA



At Darton AA, four of the students completed a two day expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. The students showed great resilience and determination to complete the two days. It was also time to say goodbye to our year 11's. Every day they amazed us with their attitude to school. This picture was taken on the DofE expedition and represents the students' path in education. At times they have all strayed from the path but in the end, they have worked hard to re-join the path and head towards their bright futures.



IT'S COMING HOME!

This half term, after school club has been a great success with many pupils staying behind to take part in extracurricular activities. With Euro 2020 well under way, the PE department decided to create their very own Springwell Euros. The pupils were split into four teams; England, Germany, Wales and France. The teams played three group games, with the second round of fixtures taking place before the end of term. The top two teams there were plenty of goals, tackles and defence splitting passes on show. Keep it up. Massive well done to all involved.



PERSONALISED LEARNING AT KENDRAY

This term has seen many new pupils visiting Kendray and the provision has been busier and more vibrant than ever with many pupils engaging brilliantly with their personalised offer.

At Kendray there is a wonderful mix of academic learning in the mornings with engagement and outdoor sessions taking place in the afternoons, sometimes all over the borough.

Activities that we have participated this term include outdoor learning on the allotment, making fire pits, hammock building, developing the garden area, rocket making, master chef sessions, sports, fishing, orienteering and biking. We certainly have been busy!

Thanks to all the staff and pupils – everyday is a blast!

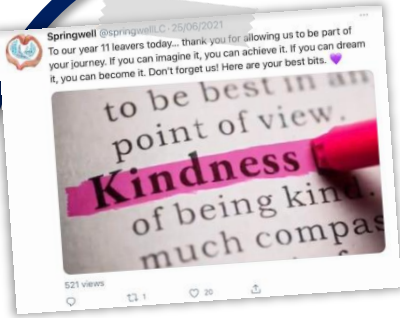


OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Outdoor education at Springwell has provided a new and engaging way of learning. It has helped many of our pupils to develop a more positive attitude to gaining new practical skills. They have grown in confidence which has resulted in great social skills and togetherness. It has been a joy to watch our pupils develop during outdoor activities such as den building, survival skills, mountain biking and putting in the hard work at our brilliant allotment. Some of our primary pupils have also had the opportunity to meet park rangers and take part in many activities such as pond dipping. We have lots of fun with outdoor learning and look forward to seeing our pupils continuing to make progress in the subject.



SocialMedia



These are some of our top tweets from the last term.

If you've not already done so, please follow us to keep up to date with everything that's happening at Springwell

@springwellLC



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

This year at Springwell, students in key stage 4 have been working towards their Bronze DofE Award.

The Award recognises individual commitment and progress in 3 sections- physical activity, skills and volunteering. In addition to this, students have been offered the opportunity to take part in a Covid-adjusted 2 day expedition.

Y11 were the first to complete their expedition, 2 days of amazing teamwork and dedication from 5 students, who cycled 24 miles of the Trans-Pennine Trail. The group demonstrated an excellent sense of adventure while looking out for each other and keeping close together as a group.

Highfields key stage 4 embarked on their expedition by foot, each and every student worked hard and pushed themselves through the days despite the incredibly hot weather. Joe has written an incredible recount, we are unfortunately unable to include all 9 pages, hopefully this small excerpt gives everyone a taster:

"After the farm (I. was very sad to leave the horses) we walked through some lovely green fields, and it looked like Windows XP on all sides. In case you are unfamiliar with the nostalgic operating system from the 2000s, or just don't get it, here's a picture of its default desktop wallpaper..."

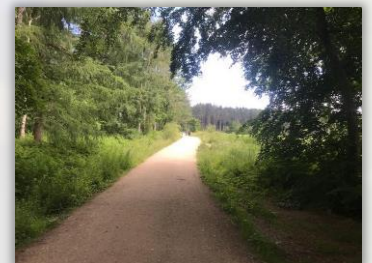
Finally, our expeditions concluded with a team of 4 from Darton. As with the other groups they demonstrated great personal qualities as a group, but a skill particularly noteworthy was their cooking and food prep. Everyone took on different roles and shared the responsibilities, where students were unsure, the more confident students guided them. We had bacon for breakfast, cheese and ham sandwiches for lunch and the best chicken, rice and cheese wraps for dinner.



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It's been an absolute pleasure supporting these students through their award, and I'm really pleased to say that this year, despite the challenges faced through the pandemic, 20 students will be receiving at least one certificate for their commitment, of these one student will get a certificate of achievement for completing his physical, volunteering and skills sections and one student will be getting his full award for completing these three sections and his qualifying expedition.

I'm looking forward to September and the adventures the Duke of Edinburgh Award will bring. Massive well done to all involved.



Sports Day

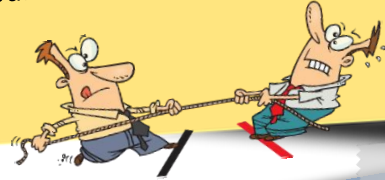
Pupils and staff participated in their annual sports day on Thursday 8th of July.

It was a great day and the pupils should be very proud of their efforts. They cooperated brilliantly, showed determination, great discipline, team work and never stopped encouraging each other. The only thing missing were the parents and carers. We very much look forward to the day when we can pack the school again and celebrate everyone's achievements together.

A big thank you to Mr Rollinson and Mr Byrnes for all your hard work in organising the event.



Scan the QR Code to view the highlights of our Sports Day



PRIMARY 2

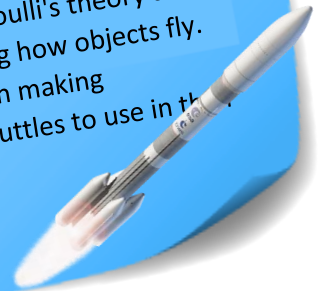
Primary 2's Elements topic this half term was based around Invaders! Looking at Vikings and Anglo-Saxons we learnt about how they travelled, where and how they lived and what they ate. While researching the Viking Kings and their great feasts, we made our own Viking bread to see what it would be like, it was as hard as a rock! Thank goodness for the invention of yeast.

Finally, we researched how the Vikings invaded Britain coming from Norway, Sweden and Denmark on their long ships. Wearing their armour to protect themselves and living in their Viking houses built for up to 50 people. Can you imagine the queue for the toilet?!



HIGHFIELDS KS3

KS3 Highfields have been loving their science lessons this term. The pupils have been looking at the adventures of space exploration. Making 'mission patches' like astronauts, using Bernoulli's theory and Newton's laws showing how objects fly. They have also had fun making model rockets and shuttles to use in their experiments.



Let's
HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER