

Welcome to the Spring 2 Edition of Our Further Education Centre Newsletter!

**Accreditation for our Year 14 students is now well underway through AQA.** All Year 14 students are working towards a range of Entry Level and Pre-Entry qualifications across the FEC's vocational curriculum, and we are excited to celebrate their achievements at the end of the academic year.

**Work experience and careers development are also progressing positively.** The FEC is developing new and exciting links within the local borough to support students in the travelling bases, helping them broaden their understanding and experience of the workplace. We look forward to sharing further updates on these partnerships later in the year.

**We were also delighted to welcome Joey, the therapy dog, back to the FEC for a return visit.** Students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the session and benefited from the calming, confidence-boosting experience that Joey brings. His visits continue to have a positive impact on wellbeing and engagement across the FEC.

**In addition, we are currently undertaking a full review of the FEC curriculum.** We are pleased to confirm the return of community access opportunities for our students, which will further enhance their independence and real-world learning. We look forward to providing an update on whole-school and FEC curriculum developments soon.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to sharing more updates with you soon! Katie, Jean & Nicola



**FECSF**

FECSF have been engaging in the preparation of a variety of dinners during catering lessons. This week, we made pizzas whilst listening to songs about pizza. We followed a pizza recipe and utilised our maths skills by counting how many cups of flour and water were needed to make the dough for our pizza bases. We also enjoyed smelling the aromas of the different herbs (basil, thyme and sage) used to season our pizza bases.

We chose our pizza toppings (onion, garlic, red and green peppers, mushrooms, passata and cheese), and some students were supported to develop their knife-cutting skills by chopping the vegetables before being supported to arrange them on their pizzas. The aroma from the pizzas cooking was phenomenal!





## FEC – Home Management

### Spring Term 1, the perfect time to spring clean the house!

Students have been practising their cleaning skills, using a variety of cleaning products safely and tidying the house. They have considered their own bedrooms and how they can use their Home Management skills to keep their own space clean and tidy. In practical lessons, students have mopped, hoovered, cleaned, swept and made the bed. Please encourage your young person to keep practising these skills at home and show you what they can do—they've all worked incredibly hard.

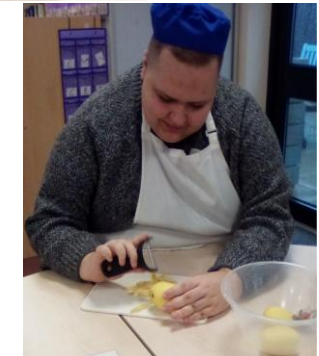
We also explored home-made cleaning products and made our own cleaning solution using water, lemons, vinegar and bicarbonate of soda. Almost a science experiment but a useful one with students using the solution to clean various items around the classroom. We also compared online prices of conventional cleaning products to home made products. A great half term and well done everyone.

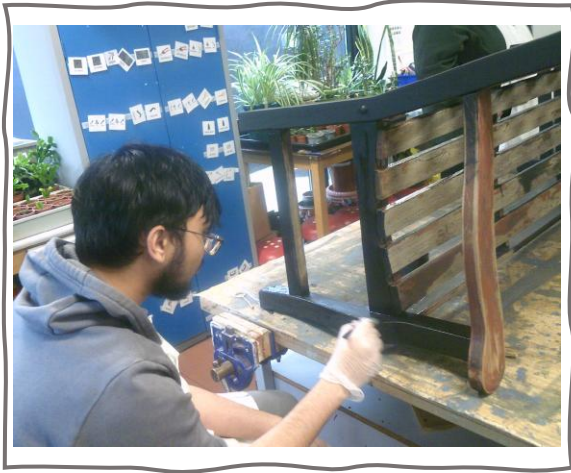


## FEC - Catering

### This Term is Delicious Dinners!

This term in the kitchen, our students have been busy exploring new skills, working safely, and enjoying the process of making hearty, comforting dinners. They learned how to make air-fryer chips from scratch using fresh potatoes, practising key food-prep skills such as peeling, slicing, and chopping. Once their chips were ready, students sampled a range of sauces and discussed flavour, texture, colour, and personal preference, helping to build communication, decision-making, and independence. Toad in the hole was another favourite this term, with pupils preparing fresh vegetables—broccoli, carrots, and peas—while learning about where food comes from and the importance of colourful, balanced meals. Everyone took great pride in seeing their hard work come together on the plate, and they should all feel very proud of what they've achieved.





This term, our focus in Work-Based Mini Enterprise has been 'Upcycling and Repurposing'. Our main project involved restoring two old garden benches kindly donated to the school. The benches were in poor condition and coated in a brown lacquer that had deteriorated badly and proved difficult to remove. Our students worked diligently to strip away the old finish and sand down all rough surfaces on both benches. Once this was complete, the benches were thoroughly cleaned with warm water to remove dust before receiving two coats of matt black paint. The finished benches look excellent and have been given a new lease of life. They will now be placed in the FEC playground for staff and pupils to enjoy.



## FEC - WBME



In Creative Projects this term, students have continued their work from Spring 1 term and have now created textile-based work to make items to decorate the Further Education Centre. Students have enjoyed seeing their designs come to life through cushions, bunting and fabric design. Students have been developing their skills and knowledge of printmaking, alongside learning new skills about textiles such as fabrics, sewing and applique. Students chose colourful fabrics and paints, making independent choices, corresponding to their initial designs omitted paper. Students focused their designs on nature and the use of bright colours throughout, and they have been made with lots of fine details and intricate designs. These will be enjoyed by all, to see students designs proudly displayed around the FEC.



## FEC – Creative Projects



## FEC - PSD

This term we have been learning about how to lead a healthy lifestyle. Through this topic, our students have been developing the confidence to make independent and informed choices that support both their physical and mental well-being. They have explored the importance of eating a balanced diet, including aiming for at least five portions of fruit and vegetables each day, taking regular exercise, getting enough sleep, and understanding how to manage their emotions. Students have also learned about key health-related themes such as personal hygiene, the different food groups, and the importance of reducing sedentary habits. This learning has helped them build positive routines and a deeper understanding of how everyday choices contribute to a healthy, happy life.



<b>MATHS</b> $y = ax^2 + bx + c$ $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ $3 \times 4 = 12$ 5 AB A B C A B C	<b>ENGLISH</b> A " " The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog AB C
--	---

## FEC - Numeracy & Literacy

This term, our students have been exploring the topic of measurement in maths. They have been developing their skills in estimating and accurately measuring length, mass, volume, and capacity. Throughout the unit, pupils have been learning how to use a range of measuring equipment confidently, including rulers, tape measures, measuring jugs and scales. To make the learning even more engaging, some of our students took part in our very own *Classroom Olympics*! Pupils had the opportunity to put their measuring skills into action by competing in fun events such as the long jump, shot put, javelin, and discus. They worked in teams, took turns, and used their measuring skills to determine who could achieve the longest distance in each event.

In Literacy, we built on our PSD topic of healthy lifestyles by researching ways to maintain good physical and mental well-being. The students used their findings to design and create eye-catching posters promoting healthy living.





This half term in maths, we have been learning about shapes through lots of creative art activities. Students began by using paint to stamp different shapes onto paper and then printed their shapes onto fabric to create a bright and eye-catching class display. In our creative projects, pupils explored a range of materials as part of our textiles work. They experimented with quilting by choosing colourful fabrics and arranging them to form a backdrop for our sewing artwork, using their communication systems to select their favourite colours and designs. Our work-based mini-enterprise topic focused on reusing old items, and students transformed tubes and food containers into desk tidies, as well as making wind chimes from bottles and bottle tops.



# FECGJ



This term in Communication, pupils explored healthy lifestyles through Tacpac, healthy eating and physical-health activities, learning how to keep their bodies healthy while building wellbeing, independence and engagement. They also practised maths and practical skills by searching for hidden objects, comparing sizes and shapes, and measuring ingredients during catering lessons to make simple meals such as pizza, chips and pasta. In PSD, pupils learned about germs, handwashing and healthy eating through hands-on activities, including using straws to explore how germs spread, helping them develop hygiene awareness and practical life skills. During Home Management, they took part in cleaning tasks such as washing, hoovering, mopping and cleaning windows, and explored different cleaning products to support independence, confidence and engagement. In WBME, pupils focused on upcycling and repurposing by examining reused items and creating recycled bottle planters, lollipop-stick frames and sanded-wood coasters, building environmental awareness and practical skills. They also enjoyed Creative Projects, designing fabrics for cushions and bunting and experimenting with printmaking using found objects like shapes and leaves, developing artistic skills and an understanding of soft furnishing

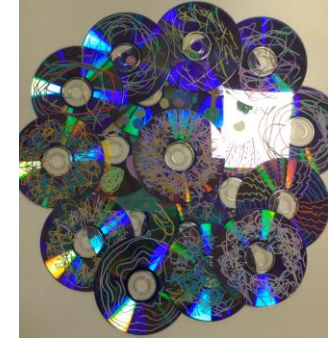


# FECTA



## FECSC

This half term, we explored a range of materials in our Creative Projects textiles topic. Pupils created mood boards by selecting and arranging different fabrics, then experimented with printing on textiles and adding extra details to make bunting. They particularly enjoyed using their communication systems to choose colours and patterns. In maths, we focused on shapes and used different art media to support learning. Students began by stamping shapes onto paper with paint, then layered on shapes they had coloured previously to create more complex designs before labelling each shape to strengthen understanding. Our Work-Based Mini Enterprise topic centred on repurposing goods. Pupils used acrylic pens to decorate old DVDs, and once all the designs are complete, the DVDs will be combined to create a collaborative piece of wall art. This project was a favourite, giving everyone the chance to work together as a team.



## FECRP

During Spring Term 1 in our Cognition and Learning lessons, students developed skills in measuring ingredients and using a measuring tape to look at lengths and perimeters. They were able to weigh and measure ingredients with less support using scales, and we were pleased to see their confidence growing as they became less dependent on adults. In Creative Projects, students explored textiles from China, Africa and India, linking this with our Work-Based Mini Enterprise focus on recycling and repurposing. By combining both areas, they created wonderful artwork for our school display. Throughout these sessions, pupils showed strong focus, engagement and enjoyment, especially as they were able to choose the items they wanted to work with. With appropriate support, they achieved impressive results, and one student even began learning a new skill—sewing with a needle and thread—to create a snake inspired by African textiles.

