

By Jordan Curry-Editor

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## Editor's Welcome

Hello readers, I hope you enjoy my Christmas newsletter.

Seasonal surprises and school news are wrapped up inside,  
then delivered for your reading pleasure a few days late...

We'll switch to Amazon Prime next year, I promise!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and are looking forward to  
more exceptionalness come new year 2019.

Until next time...

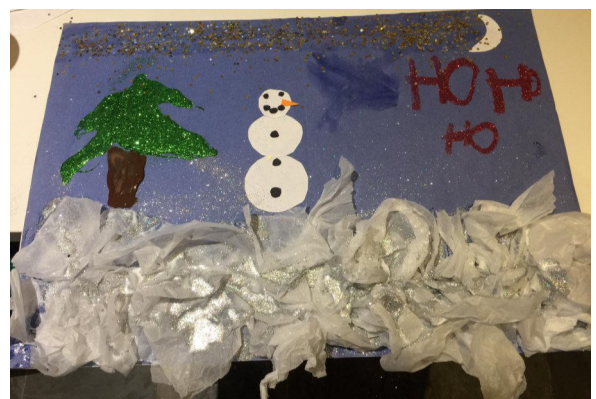


I'm sure you agree it all looked pine and dandy...

We continue our festive theme with some wintery artwork and  
baubles making from Brook View.

## Half-Term Headlines

As we approached the holiday season, school staff and students  
were decorating Christmas trees and our buildings.



Reducing the temptation of gluttony with newsletter food is coming into force from the new year. Before we trim the waistline, let's stuff the page with stir fry and maple bacon pancakes!



Back in November, a KS4 student did a task on working memory as part of a Reflection lesson. It involved checking a student mentors car to ensure road worthiness.

CAR: M7 Z S	Yes	No	N/A	Observation	Action
Interior					
Is the car tidy?	✓				
Do all the windows open and close?	✓				
Are the seatbelts in good repair?	✓			CHILD SEAT	
Is the cigarette charger working?	✓				
Is the interior mirror in good repair?	✓				
Is the interior light working?	✓				
Are there first aid boxes in the car?	✓				
Exterior					
Is all glass in good repair?	✓				
Is the number plate clearly visible?	✓				
Do all of the doors lock?	✓				
Does the bonnet catch do its job?	✓				
Does the boot catch do its job?	✓				
Any visible corrosion?	✓				
External mirrors in good repair?	✓				
Under the bonnet					
Is the oil ok?	✓				
Is the water full?	✓				
Is there screen wash in the car?	✓				
Has anti freeze been added?	✓				
Electrical controls					
Does the horn work?	✓				
Are all the exterior lights working?	✓				
Are the wipers in good repair?	✓				
Wheels and tyres					
Are the tyre treads legal?	✓				
Are the trims in good repair?	✓				
Are the rims in good repair?	✓			ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN REPAIRED	
Is the spare tyre adequate?	✓				

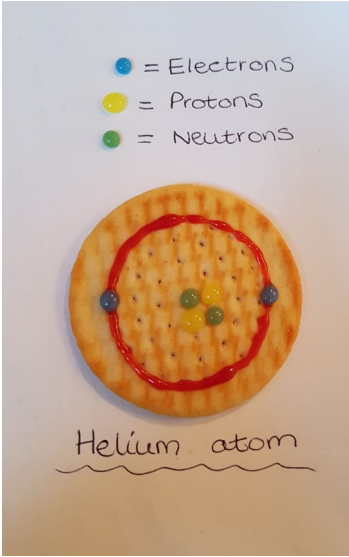
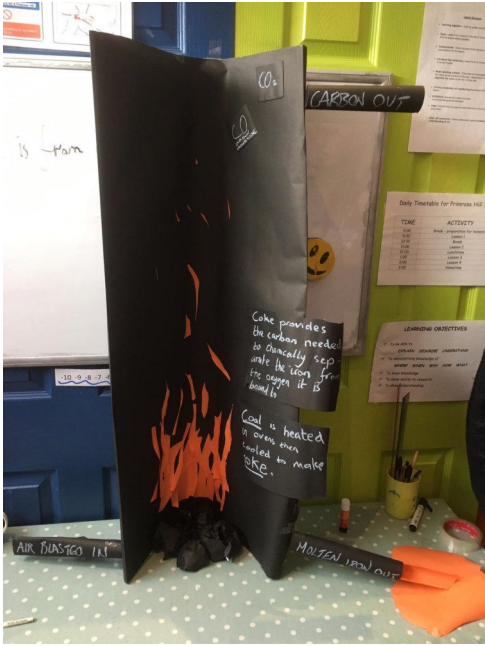
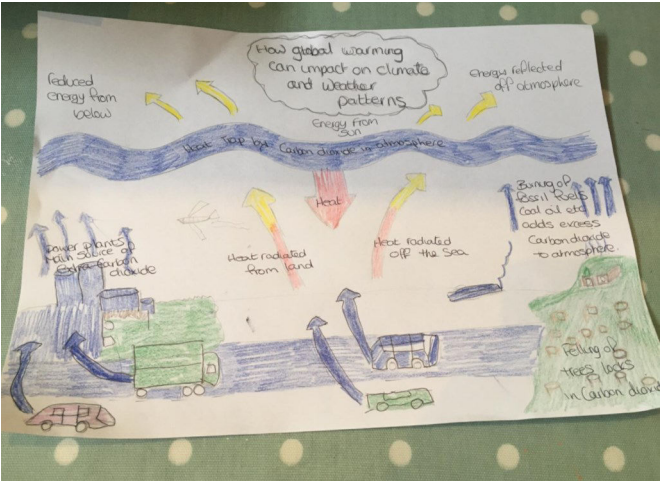
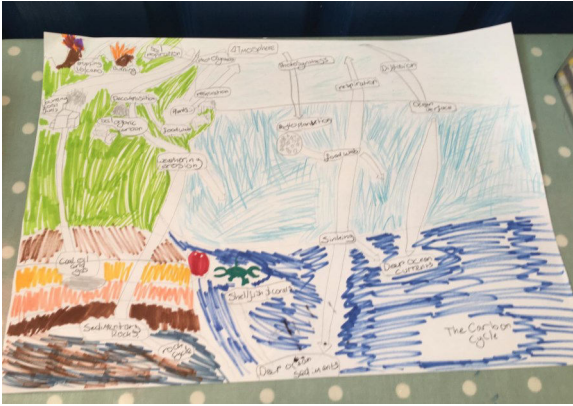
Reflection lessons are planned by the therapeutic team, headed up by Brett and Anni. They focus on life skills and building

self-awareness for each student. When personal progress is made, lesson content adapts to this.

If you would like to know more about these lessons, please request a copy of our therapeutic statement or contact us in the new year.

A lot of visual work on the carbon cycle and make-up of atoms has featured in Science lessons.

Take a peek at all these diagrams and see if they help you know more than you did previously.

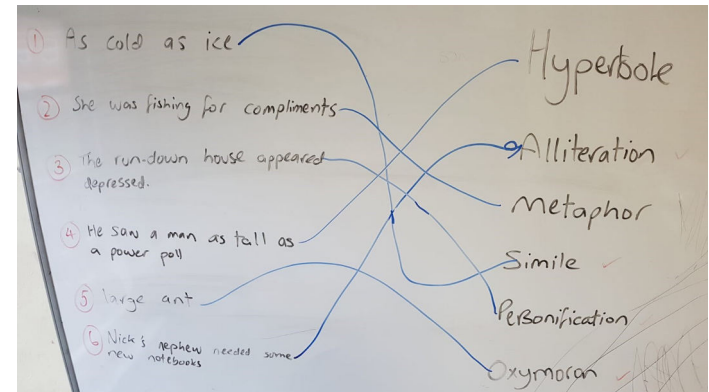


A number of these images are also on the Facebook page in a bigger size if you're struggling to see some of this clearly.

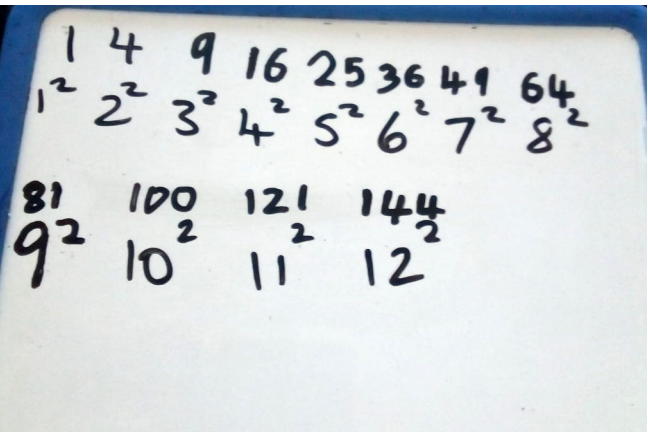
The link to this can be found in the footer of our website or by pressing control and right-click on the "follow us on Facebook" icon at the bottom of this newsletter.

Recent lessons helped some students improve English skills.  
You use these skills everyday without even realising at times.  
One lesson produced this very funny short story you can read by highlighting and clicking this link:

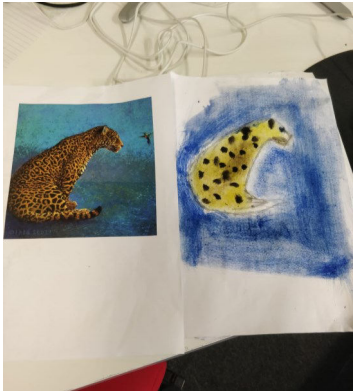
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The effect of grammatical features in writing was demonstrated with these doodles on the whiteboard.



We haven't featured anything from Outreach for a while.  
This work on square numbers in Maths will have been helpful to a newer school pupil.



Last up this month, is some great artwork from Teaseldown and cookies demonstrating ratio in Maths.  
I'd recommend keeping a famous blue furry monster well away from those...

# Welcomes And Farewells



Tim joins Primrose Hill in January and will be jazzing up our music teaching, thanks to previous experience in the field.  
See what I did there!  
So long farewell to Sian from Teaseldown. After plenty of work on Science and creative elements of our curriculum, she has decided to leave us from this month.

## Job Focus

As promised in the previous newsletter, we are launching a new interview feature from this month onwards.  
Hear from employees and directors on what makes our work exceptional and find out more about the person behind the mentor.  
Chris joined us for a chat recently, she's Senior Student Mentor.  
(Training, Development Recruitment)  
**First up, how long have you been working for Exceptional Ideas?**  
I joined Exceptional Ideas Ltd just over five years ago.  
**Who first approached you about working here or did you find out about it yourself?**

I heard about Exceptional Ideas from a friend.  
**Having been with us for a while now, what would be your advice to someone thinking of joining the team?**  
We're marmite! Lol... You either love it, get what we do and excel. Or you don't....and then this job is not for you.

It's a very dynamic and fast paced environment. We focus on improving the outcomes for our students, as much as we do staff, this is why we have a rigorous staff training plan and encourage development that's ongoing for all our staff.  
**Explain a bit more about what you get up to each school day and what you most enjoy about it?**

My days are always different. Some days I'm meeting staff doing training, could be recruiting and even on timetable teaching. I never know, but generally my timetable always has to be changed. Lol  
**After a tricky day, how would you unwind?**

I generally chill out at home, sometimes I draw, cook or walk the dogs.

**Tell me something about yourself that only a few people know.**

**I'm perfect!! Shhhhhh... don't tell anyone.**

**Favourite food?**

**Nacho's and cheese**

**Film/music video you could watch again and again?**

**Anything with Bruce Willis or Jason Statham**

**Finally, sum up being a mentor in three words?**

**Rewarding / Fun / Unique**

# Nerdy Nora's Newsletter

## Nugget



“Bing Crosby’s White Christmas has sold over 50 million copies worldwide since its 1942 release. (76 years ago!) According to the Guinness World Records, this makes it the best selling song ever.

# Really Easy Recipe



Brussel Sprouts are rather divisive over Christmas, but people seem to try at least one over the festive season!

With this recipe from Vegetarian Gastronomy, cater for up to 4 guests; including any with special dietary requirements.

You could convert them to the sprout cause and use up any green balls of goodness.

### Ingredients

- 25 brussels sprouts
- 1.5 tbsp olive oil
- 1.5 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 2-3 cloves of crushed garlic
- Dried or fresh thyme
- Salt

Black pepper, freshly ground if possible

The last three ingredients are too taste, add to your liking!

Don't forget a baking tray, bowl and parchment paper either.

### Method

- Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.
- Cut and discard the brussels stems. Peel any yellow leaves and cut the sprouts in half lengthwise.
- Mix all the other ingredients with the sprouts in a bowl

- Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Spread sprouts onto the baking sheet so that there is a single layer present.
- Bake for about 20-25 minutes or until the brussels are browned. Half way through, toss the sprouts so that they brown evenly.
- Serve hot.

# What's on the Box?

The Radio Times is perfect for ticking off upcoming TV, but what about programmes based around the education and care sectors you may've missed last month?

**Here's my highlights.**

**School- BBC Two**

CSET is a South Gloucestershire based multi-academy trust that faces funding challenges for the secondary schools it operates. This is well worth a watch to see mainstream education in an honest, insightful way from a number of perspectives.

Find this show on BBC iPlayer.

**Superkids: Breaking away from care—Channel 4**

Lemn Sissay MBE is an award winning poet who grew up in the care system . He uses his experience to help young people under the care of Coventry City Council achieve something they never felt was possible.

Although it's moving and thought-provoking in equal measure, I wouldn't recommend watching this if you're younger than 15 as the content can be quite hard-hitting.

Search for All4 to view this programme.

# Guess where I am

Room with a View didn't quite roll off the tongue and last months issue wasn't a picture from a room at all, it was from the Bond Street poppies in Chelmsford!

Did you get it right? If not, then be sure to try again next time.

# The Plugs



Don't forget to like and...



for regular content, information and a chance to chat with the school community.

Check out our new Transition blog, just control, right click and it'll load up quick! <http://exceptional-ideas.co.uk/blog/>