



At the

CENTRE

The Centre School

End of Spring Term Newsletter

April 2025

Principal's Message

As I write we have a group of students enjoying the lovely weather on the Dorset coast at Brenscombe. The daily reports from Sam are full of praise for the students, reflecting on their on-going support of one another and their excellent behaviour. A huge thank-you to the staff team (and Bel) for giving up their time so that students have these opportunities which are so important.

This has been a busy half-term with lots going on. The farm is thriving, and staff are planning our next open day (the Centre Celebration) in June. There has been a lot of positive learning going on both in and out of the classroom and we have had some impressive results in Functional Skills exams (in English and maths) from students in Years 11, 12 and 13.

I hope that this sunny weather continues into next week and everyone can enjoy a well-deserved Easter break.

Sue Raven



**SAVE THE
DATE!**

Centre Celebration

Thursday 19 June, from 5pm, @TCS (Cottenham)

A warm invitation to all our students and their families! Visit us and join in the celebration of our students' achievements. BBQ and refreshments provided.

Farm Fest 2025

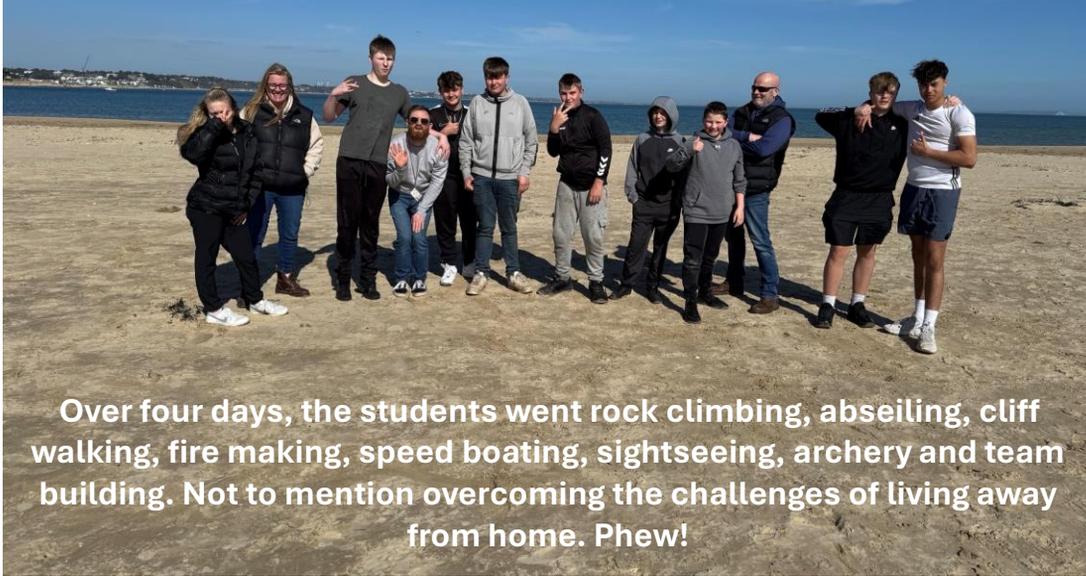
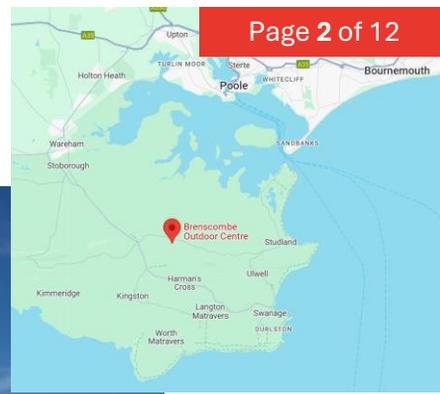
Late June, date TBC, @TCS Farm (Rampton)

Fun & fundraising! Great food, drinks, stalls, activities and a chance to meet the animals! Hope to see you all there.

OUTWARD BOUND

By Sam

Pictures from our April 2025 trip to Brenscombe Outdoor Centre in Dorset. This year, this amazing adventure was enjoyed by students from Year 7 to Year 13.



Over four days, the students went rock climbing, abseiling, cliff walking, fire making, speed boating, sightseeing, archery and team building. Not to mention overcoming the challenges of living away from home. Phew!


brenscombe
outdoor centre
www.brenscombeoutdoor.co.uk/



DOWN ON THE FARM

By Dunks

The farm has sprung into life over the spring term. Our students have roughed out the bitter winter weather over January and February. The cabin has offered well-earned shelter and a hot drink on the coldest of days.

Thankfully, the weather has improved, and we have welcomed three new lambs over the past couple of weeks. The rescue chickens have settled in and are producing eggs by the dozen. We are currently incubating some duck eggs, so watch this space.

Tiff and the crew have been prepping the growing area and sowing seeds ready for the new season.

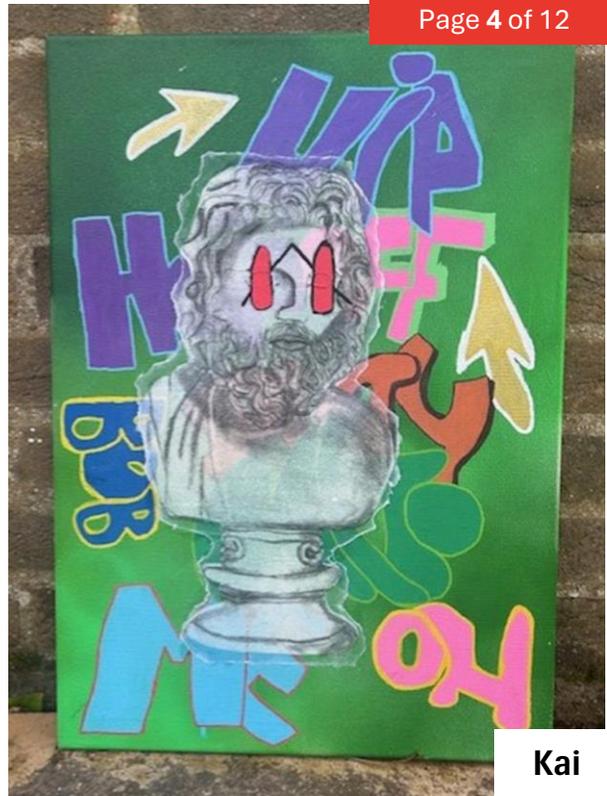


ART

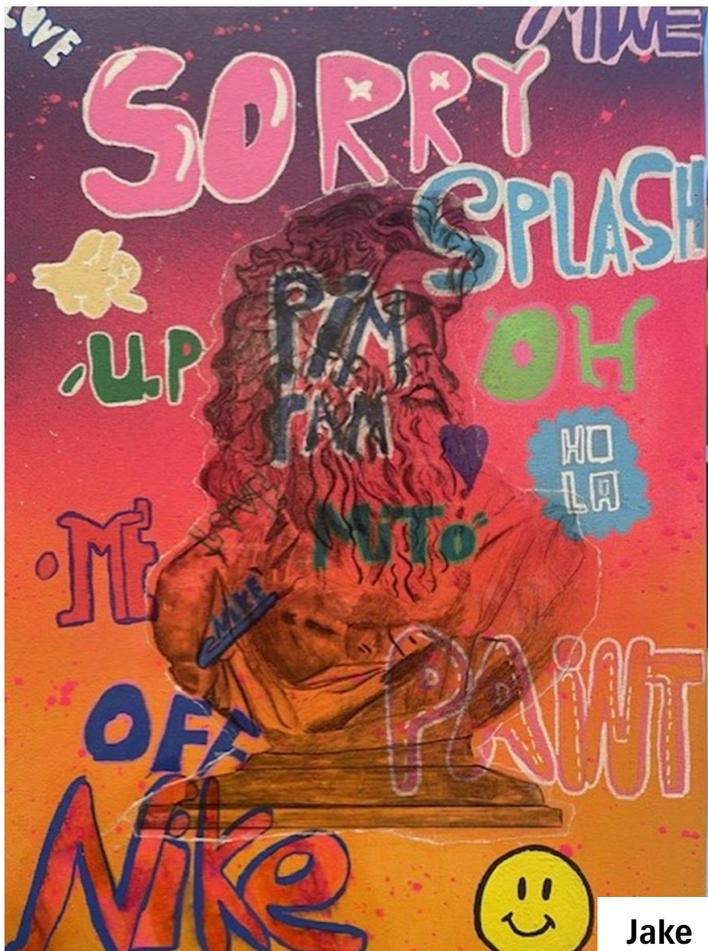
By Laura



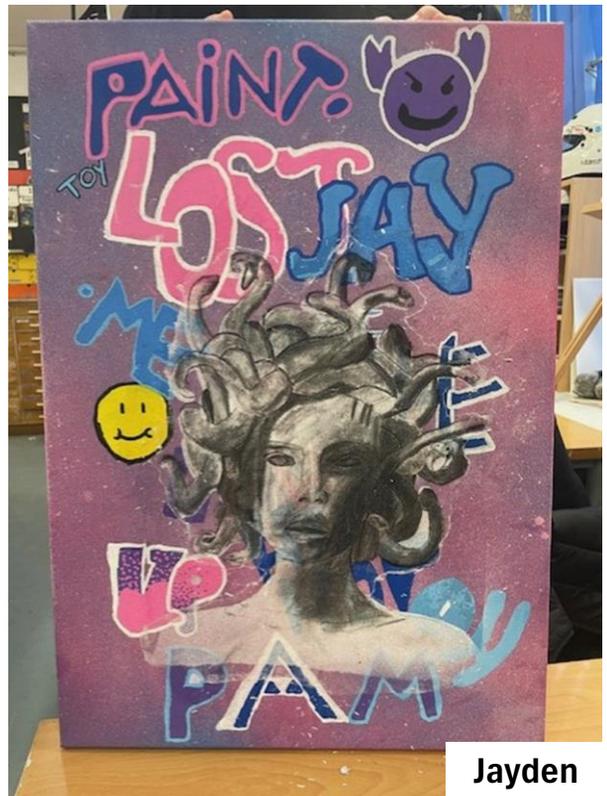
Year 10 and 11 students have been diligently working towards meeting GCSE criteria, taking inspiration from the artist duo, **PichiAvo**. Building on their initial ideas, students have explored and experimented with various techniques, resulting in some exceptional pieces. They have skilfully worked with clay to sculpt their own designs and have crafted canvases that beautifully merge two art forms - classical and street art.



Kai



Jake



Jayden



Alfie



Kai

<https://www.pichiavo.com/>

Eric



Alfie



Logan



EXTENDED

By Stu



Adrenaline Alley (Corby): The time we met 2024 WORLD scooter champion (Jayden Sharman)



Football Fixture v Olive Academy: Despite Mikey's outstanding strike, we lost out 3-1. The team played well and with a bit more composure in front of goal (the post and bar took a hammering), the match could have been ours! We look forward to the return fixture.

PATHFINDER

By Chris C

Have a conversation at home about the **Pathfinder Award**. Ask your young person about the **Checkpoint Certificates** they have achieved already. What are they most proud of?

Navigating your school years can be tricky. You know that you have **important goals** to achieve, but it's not always clear what to do next, or what path to take. That is where the TCS Pathfinder Award comes in!

All students at The Centre School participate in the TCS Pathfinder Award. The Award can be achieved at four Levels, with each level made up of progressively more challenging opportunities and experiences. The challenges range from looking after your Score Card for a full half-term to consistently reading aloud in lessons to five-day residential trips and navigating college interviews.

When a student successfully completes a challenge, they are awarded a Checkpoint Certificate. When they have collected the required number of Certificates, students will earn their Pathfinder Award (Level 1, 2, 3 or 4).

At The Centre School we have agreed goals – wellbeing goals, qualification goals, character goals and essential skills goals (see below). The Pathfinder Award is made up of a carefully selected range of opportunities and experiences which enable our students to achieve these goals.



Our TCS Goals

Wellbeing Goals

You are safe, healthy, happy and independent.

Qualification Goals

You can read, write and use numbers well. You have useful cultural and subject knowledge and have options for your 'next step'.

Character Goals

You can make the very most of your life opportunities and choices.

Essential Skills Goals

You are ready to get and keep a good job.

Another important feature of the Pathfinder Award is that it recognises and celebrates student achievements along the way. It can be tough to keep going and stay motivated when you don't get the recognition you deserve. The Pathfinder Award is all about praising student efforts and celebrating their milestones, big and small, as they journey towards their goals.

We were recently visited by our Local MP (for Ely & East Cambridgeshire) **Charlotte Cane**, who wanted to find out more about the Pathfinder Award. She was hugely impressed by the work of our students, their accomplishments and their willingness to take on challenges. Charlotte had an opportunity to spend some time with Alfie, Aaron, Owen and Braden, who were able to share their experiences. Charlotte commented on how eloquent and enthusiastic the boys were and left with a hugely positive impression of The Centre School.

We will announce the first group of students to achieve their Pathfinder Awards in the Newsletter at the end of the summer term.



**Sue with our local MP,
Charlotte Cane**

**Pathfinder Checkpoint 2.1 -
I regularly attempt to read aloud in lessons**



**Pathfinder Checkpoint 6.1-
I have consistently tried to produce my best
work in lessons**



**Pathfinder Checkpoint 6.4 -
I have taken part in 10 or more different
Extended Curriculum Activities**



**Pathfinder Checkpoint 7.7-
I have supported another student in the school**



By Chris C

It's never too early to start thinking and talking about the future. Not many secondary school students are confident about what they want to do after school, or indeed who they want to be. Conversations at home about what's important, their likes and dislikes and the different types of opportunities available after Year 11, can help to inform, inspire and motivate your young person. To support, here are a couple of useful resources (see right).

1. All Centre School students have access to the online Job Explorer Database (JED). You can use JED to find out about a wide range of jobs, including what the job involves, what training you need and what you are likely to earn. To login to JED, follow this link and then enter our Access Code <https://jed.ckcareers.org.uk/Jed/LoginAccessCode.aspx> Access Code: 95ATXVYB

2. The National Careers Service website is a brilliant resource to support thinking about work and careers. For example, there are helpful questionnaires (multi-choice) to help you get started, called 'Discover your skills and careers' and 'Skills Health Check'. <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

Activities this term

Enterprise Workshop with Inspire 2 Ignite. Students learned about how to set-up an online business – including research, design and marketing. Inspirational!



Employment Workshop with Form the Future. Students learned about different types of job interview – including times when you may be asked to take part in a groupwork activity. Students practiced their teamworking by taking on the spaghetti/marshmallow tower challenge! The current TCS record is a tower 88cm tall!



SLEEP

By Annabel

A good night's sleep is crucial to a young person's ability to regulate their emotions and engage well with the school day – but we know that many of our students struggle with their sleep pattern.

There is no easy fix for this problem – often people try a range of different approaches before they find something which works for them.

The Teen Sleep Hub is an excellent website offering advice, guidance and encouragement to young people and their families. If this is something that you're trying to tackle at home, this website is well worth a visit.



www.teensleaphub.org.uk/parents-carers/

The Top Tips

Here is a little information to help you to understand your teens sleep and how you, as a parent or carer, can help.

- **Emphasise the importance of sleep** and that it improves memory and performance. Teens need at least eight hours' sleep on school nights.
- **Encourage regular exercise** – 20 minutes three times a week will help.
- **Suggest they drink less caffeine** (in cola and energy drinks as well as tea and coffee). Too much caffeine stops them falling asleep and prevents deep sleep.
- **Point out that eating too much or too little close to bedtime** – an over full or empty stomach – may prevent sleep onset, or cause discomfort throughout the night.
- **Try and get your teen into a good bed routine** – suggest that doing the same things in the same order before going to sleep can help.
- **Eliminate electronic devices from the bedroom.** If this isn't possible, try to zone areas of the room for work, leisure and sleep.
- **Ensure a good sleep environment** – a room that is dark, cool, quiet, safe and comfortable.
- **Make sure your teenager has a comfortable bed.** It may be time to get a new one – and encourage him or her to choose it themselves.

Remember, habits learned in adolescence often become lifetime habits – so make sure good sleep habits are learned early.



Need/request	Please Contact
To report student absence (or to request support with school attendance)	attendance@astreacentreschool.org or call 01954 288789 ASAP and before 9.40am
For general queries	office@astreacentreschool.org
To contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead	annabel.croxon@astreacentreschool.org
For queries about work experience or careers education	chris.cassidy@astreacentreschool.org
If your child is ready to leave The Centre School at the end of this school year, and you are seeking advice and guidance regarding next steps, to contact the Pathways Advisor , Richard	Richard.Beckett@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Date	Event
Wed 23 April	Summer Term Home Visits (you will be contacted by one of our team in advance).
Thu 24 April	Students return to school following the Easter break
Mon 5 May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 26 May – Fri 30 May	Half-term
Thu 19 June	Centre Celebration
Fri 20 June	Staff Training Day – School closed to students
Fri 27 June	Final day of the academic year for students of school leaving age (who are graduating and leaving The Centre School this summer)
Tue 22 July	Final day of the school year for all students. Early finish, taxis will leave site at 12.30pm