



Learning Together, Growing in Confidence and Developing Independence

Welcome to another exciting edition of our Rivers Phase newsletter!

It has been a busy and rewarding half-term, with pupils taking part in a wonderful variety of activities designed to develop confidence, independence and essential life skills.

From outdoor adventures and practical First Aid to volunteering in the community and developing cooking skills, our Rivers pupils have been demonstrating perseverance, teamwork and a willingness to embrace new challenges.

We are incredibly proud of the progress they continue to make. Here is a glimpse of what our classes have been getting up to!

9R1 - Woodland Adventures and Teamwork

9R1 enjoyed their first Woodland lesson of the new academic year, getting stuck into an exciting outdoor challenge that encouraged practical learning, teamwork and problem-solving.

During the session, pupils learned how to tie different types of knots before putting their new skills to the test. Working collaboratively, they used poles and knots to construct a tripod structure that could form the framework of a tent.

This hands-on activity encouraged pupils to communicate, listen to instructions, share responsibilities and work towards a common goal.

Outdoor learning provides valuable opportunities for our pupils to develop resilience, independence and confidence in an environment beyond the classroom.

A fantastic start to Woodland lessons, 9R1!

10R1 - Learning Skills That Could Save Lives!

Our Year 10 pupils have been developing some incredibly important practical skills as part of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award programme.

This half-term, 10R1 have been focusing on First Aid, exploring different situations in which someone might need help and learning how to respond safely and confidently.

Pupils have practised checking for a pulse, treating minor cuts and grazes, placing someone in the recovery position and learning the basic principles of CPR.

The class particularly enjoyed the practical activities, demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and a willingness to learn.

First Aid is an excellent example of meaningful learning that extends beyond the classroom. It helps pupils develop responsibility, confidence, problem-solving skills and an understanding of how they can support others.

Well done, 10R1! These are valuable skills that could one day make a real difference.

10R2 - Making a Difference Through Charity

As part of their Vocational Studies lessons, 10R2 have been exploring the importance of helping others and making a positive contribution to their community.

Pupils worked together to discuss different charities and consider which causes they would most like to support.

The discussions generated some fantastic ideas, with pupils sharing their opinions, listening to one another and thinking carefully about how their efforts could benefit others.

The class has identified several charities they would like to support and is now considering fundraising opportunities.

This project has provided meaningful opportunities to develop communication, teamwork, decision-making and social responsibility.

Importantly, it also encourages our pupils to recognise that they have the ability to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

We look forward to seeing how their fundraising ideas develop. Well done, 10R2!

11R1 - Giving Back to the Community

11R1 have made a wonderful start to the volunteering element of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) programme!

During their first volunteering session, pupils visited Lifecentral Church, where they worked together to help prepare the venue for two different events.

Throughout the session, pupils demonstrated fantastic teamwork, communication and problem-solving skills. They listened carefully, supported one another and approached their responsibilities with maturity and enthusiasm.

Volunteering provides our pupils with valuable opportunities to develop independence, gain experience in community settings and understand the importance of contributing to society.

It also helps build confidence and employability skills, preparing pupils for future opportunities beyond school.

We are particularly proud of the positive attitude and work ethic demonstrated by the class.

A brilliant start to your volunteering journey, 11R1. You are fantastic ambassadors for Sutton School!

11R2 - Cooking Up Confidence and Independence!

There were some delicious smells coming from the kitchen this week as 11R2 put their practical cooking skills to the test during their Skills for Life lessons!

The class worked together to prepare a tasty tuna pasta bake, learning a range of important kitchen skills along the way.

Pupils practised safely chopping an onion, boiling pasta and combining ingredients to create their finished meal.

Everyone had the opportunity to participate in preparing the dish and, of course, enjoy tasting the final result!

Cooking is an important part of developing independence and preparing for adulthood. Through activities like this, pupils learn about kitchen safety, following instructions, food preparation, teamwork and everyday responsibilities.

These practical experiences support our pupils in developing the confidence and skills needed to become increasingly independent in their daily lives.

Fantastic work, 11R2! We may have some future chefs in the making!

Celebrating Every Step Forward

As we reflect on another busy half-term, we are reminded that education is about so much more than academic achievement.

Every new skill learned, responsibility undertaken, challenge overcome and moment of independence represents meaningful progress.

Our Rivers pupils continue to demonstrate what can be achieved through encouragement, perseverance and opportunities to learn through real-life experiences.

We are incredibly proud of you all. Keep learning, keep growing and keep believing in yourselves!