Spring Term 2024 | Issue No.17



Summit Learning Trust News

Also in this issue: Safeguarding Squad

STEM Opportunities **TREAD Lightly Sustainability**

#ScalingNewHeights

Success through Endeavour

Ambition through Challenge

Strength through Diversity



A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for continuing to support our schools and college to achieve so much with our learners this Spring term. It has been very pleasing to see the ongoing hard work by our children and young people, and notably those who have public assessments next term, whether these be A Levels, vocational qualifications, GCSE examinations or SATs.

Summit Learning Trust achieved strongly in 2023, and this can give our learners and their families huge confidence in the high levels of expertise of our teachers and educational support colleagues. Our Summit family are acutely aware of the importance of these results to each of our children and young people in terms of giving them opportunities in later life. Our schools and college provide additional preparation sessions and additional resources for learners and I encourage our children and young people to fully access the offer to ensure that they enter examinations in May and June with great confidence.

Welcome



This term has been an exciting one for Summit Learning Trust with Kineton Green Primary School joining our family. It has been a pleasure to work alongside Terri Mason, Principal, and the team in recent months and we look forward to our ongoing collaboration in the coming months and years. I look forward to our colleagues continuing to working together for the benefit of all our children and young people in Summit Learning Trust.

Our Summit Base Camp programme continues and I thank colleagues and external partners for enabling us to provide a consistent level of support for children and young people across our schools and college. This provision will serve as the foundation to enable them to continue making strong levels of academic progress. Whilst this offer was created to provide support to our learners and their families, it was pleasing to receive the Community Impact Award at the National MAT Awards this month in recognition of the hard work and determined efforts of our academy teams in providing this. We very much hope that this publicity encourages other schools and colleges beyond Summit to offer similar initiatives to their families.

This term we have continued to enhance our school and college sites, to ensure that our children and young people receive their education and care in excellent facilities, supported by excellent technology. This has included the outdoor, Early Years curriculum areas at Yarnfield Primary, Pegasus Primary and The Oaklands Primary, a new reception building at Ninestiles, an Academy and the initial work for the additional expansion building at Solihull Sixth form College in partnership with the Department of Education.

After Easter, we will be launching our annual parents and carers survey and I encourage you to complete this please. These results will support us greatly in continuing to further enhance the education of your children so that they thrive and flourish in our care.

Have a happy and healthy Easter.

Vince Green Chief Executive Officer

Base Camp

Prior to scaling new heights, we need to ensure that our children and young people are fully equipped at Base Camp prior to beginning their ascent.

As with any expedition which involves scaling heights, we work to provide a minimum level of support for any learner that requires it to ensure that they are able to begin their ascent, and ensure that as a Trust we can fulfil all elements of our Mission.

Summit Base Camp Aims:

To ensure that every learner has the following basic needs met to enable them to achieve the highest levels of academic progress whilst being provided with a rich educational experience:



Our Base Camp work targets our learners who need it most. We mindfully ensure that some initiatives explicitly and sensitively support our colleagues, notably those most affected by rising costs, and price inflation.

As part of this offer:

- We provide free, supervised breakfast to all our children and young people
- Our academies offer a warm space for secondary and sixth form learners to access charging points and wi-fi
 provision to support independent learning
- Revision resources are provided to all Year 6 and 11 learners prior to their public examinations
- We support learners with perfect uniform
- Food parcels and hygiene products are distributed to families with support from external providers.
- We tackle digital poverty with devices and data access
- We have FREE data sim cards for any family which requires it. Please contact your academy.

If you require additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the academy office who can assist you.



TREAD Lightly

Our schools and college are leading on Sustainability initiatives within their academies with various projects across the sites. As a Trust, this is a focus our learners and staff members and features across curricular and extra-curricular activities.

With this in mind, we are involved in a project that children and young people from around the region are following in The King's footsteps and getting involved in a new initiative that looks at new ways to create a sustainable future.

The project, **TREAD** Lightly (**TREAD** Lightly: **Turn off, Reduce use, Energy efficiency, Alternative source, Do something**), was launched on Tuesday 5th March encouraging children and young people in schools and colleges across the West Midlands to try out new approaches to reduce their impact on the environment.

For example, going paper-free for a week, growing vegetables to cut down on food miles, turning off appliances not being used and making use of solar energy.

Tread Lightly has been developed by the Education Group that is part of the West Midlands Lieutenancy, which encourages community projects that benefit the region as well as supporting HM The King and His interests.

Our learners will share their ideas and results through the project to find solutions that reduce environmental impact to lead towards a more sustainable future.

Children and young people are passionate about the environment and often come up with ingenious ideas that will make a difference to how they can help preserve resources. TREAD Lightly lets them use their imagination and empowers them to problem-solve solutions. We have set up the project in our schools and college so that they can share what is working and everyone can learn, see if it works for them and benefit from the activity.

Cherry Chan, aged fourteen, from Lyndon School, Solihull is all for taking part and said;

"We are already recycling and doing litter picks in our local area, but are now looking what else we can do. One idea is to look at how we can reduce traffic outside the school. If we can come up with a good solution, we will talk with people who can help us make the changes happen."

Sir John Crabtree, Lord-Lieutenant is fully behind the project and said:

"This is a terrific initiative which goes to the heart of The King's priorities of caring for the climate and the environment."





"Two short half terms but plenty of learning and enrichment opportunities at Cockshut Hill"

University Visits for Year 9

In January our Year 9 learners all experience a day at university, which forms part of our cultural capital offer which provides fully-funded activities for all Cockshut Hill learners to access and discover the wider world. Learners had the opportunity to visit a university, such as Keble College Oxford and University of Birmingham where they were given an interactive tour by students studying there. This offer is part of the University's outreach programme which aims to build our learners ambitions for the future.





Birmingham Housing Week

In February our learners were invited to Birmingham Housing Week by the construction company Lovells for interactive and inspiring sessions to have a voice on shaping future building projects across Birmingham. This project also linked into National Apprenticeship Week and our learners were able to look at the various career roles in the industry and take part in challenges which tested their skills. One of our learners won a £40 voucher for her efforts. Thanks to Mrs Turton, our amazing Careers Leader, for organising these visits.

Success for our clubs at the UoB Robotics league

Even during the half term break, our learners from our extra-curricular computing and robotics club participated in a robotics league competition at University of Birmingham. Our learners enthusiastically embraced the competition and won awards for the best robot design and the best teamwork. Thanks to Miss Griffiths and Miss Majid for facilitating our learners during half term.



Year 8 soak up some local history at the BCLM

Another element of our cultural capital programme took place at the end of February, with our Year 8 learners all taking in some local history at the Black County Living Museum. They were treated to a Victorian school lesson, where they learned about cursive script and some of the Victorian attitudes towards schooling. They also had a trip down into the mines to learn about what life was like for Victorian children having to work with their families in the mines. Our learners shared their knowledge with the guides and absorbed up more as they toured the site. Our learners were a credit to Cockshut Hill. Thanks to Mrs Finn for organising this event for our learners.



GCSE learners treated to a live theatre production

At the end of February and the start of March, Miss Partridge and the English team organised for Katch22 Productions to return to Cockshut Hill for the fourth year running to perform JB Priestley's "An Inspector Calls" to our Year 10 and Year 11 learners. The company also performed Macbeth to our Year 11's. Our learners were all very enthusiastic about the productions, commenting that the performances had helped them to understand the characters emotions. We are looking forward to the return of Katch22 next year.



National Careers Week and British Science Week

Cockshut Hill was a buzz with a multitude of events during National Careers Week and Science Week with both events calendared in March. Mrs Turton and Miss Serrano-Sanchez organised various events ranging from, hosting speakers from the finance industry, Year 8 learners visited Birmingham Law Courts and met with a judge, Year 9 met with speakers from the technology industry and Year 7 all took part in a STEM theatre experience. For Science week, we hosted many visits, including Charmaine Griffiths, CEO of the British Heart Foundation and many more science workshops including a magic show.



Success through Endeavour

Ambition through Challenge Strengtl



Learning

Our focus at Erdington Hall is our flourishing learners. As you walk around the school, you can read our high-quality writing and see stunning artwork from all year groups. Listen out for our clarinets, drums and singing whilst spotting our mathematicians mastering numbers faster than you can say Times Tables Rockstars.

Educational Visits

As always, our doors have been open wide for our children to head out and explore the world around them. Our Reception children have enjoyed a day at the farm meeting and feeding newborn animals. Don't tell anyone, but there is a secret rooftop garden that Year 1 discovered this term, hidden at the top of Birmingham Library. And from rocks and fossils to volcanoes, earthquakes, and even dinosaurs, Lapworth Museum has captured the imagination of our Year 3 learners.

Our School Community

At Erdington Hall, the involvement of our wider school family is invaluable. During the Spring Term, we invited parents and carers to immerse themselves in our writing lessons equipping them with a range of creative ideas to support their children at home. Our Stargazing event left our Year 5 families mesmerised and was a fabulous end to their science unit on space. For International Women's Day, we didn't have to look far before we found some truly inspirational women right on our doorstep. Two of our parents came to speak with the children to share their own story of resilience and perseverance.

Our whole class assemblies are now in full swing, with Year 1 and Year 3 sharing their drama skills.





Kineton Joins the Summit Family

After months of preparation and hard work, by our colleagues at Kineton Green and those at Summit Learning Trust, we are really proud and excited to say that Kineton Green Primary officially joined Summit on Friday 1st March 2024. This is the start of a new and exciting journey for the school.

Year 6 PGL

Year 6 had a fantastic time at PGL this year. They scaled new heights as they faced their fears with rock climbing and paddled their way down the River Perry. The children enjoyed aeroball, which is playing basketball on a trampoline, and got a great physical workout with achy legs on the first day from all the exercise. Miss Maddock, Miss Gardner, and Mrs Turner enjoyed seeing the children challenge themselves, from the 'giant swing' to their fantastic dance moves around the campfire, being their quietest during Ambush, and finally gaining entry to the Manners Gallery. And with all the marvellous activities, they were sad to leave and bid farewell which included the fantastic English Breakfast.



World Book Day

On Thursday 14th March we celebrated World Book Day. The children had a great time over the course of the day culminating in an assembly when a whole school story was read out. The story was composed by each year group, who in turn added to the section written by the previous class.



The choir performed a song entitled, 'Pick Up a Book,' and three learners treated us to a 'rap,' which was written as a World Book Day song a few years ago by M C GRAMMAR!

Young Voices

Year 5 and 6 attended the Young Voices event on Thursday 22nd February. They represented our school wonderfully and showed an incredible amount of enthusiasm.





County Fitness

In February, a team of Year 9 learners qualified and competed in the County Fitness Championships. Our young people performed exceptionally well and placed 2nd, narrowly losing out to Henley-in-Arden School by only two points. The learners were an absolute credit to themselves and the school, working hard across a range of events. Well done to Archie, Harry, Ansu, Rayan, Callum and Noah.

Active Travel Ambassadors

Well done to the Active Travel Ambassadors, Shad, Tamsin and Nathan for successfully bidding for funding from Solihull Council to promote Active Travel to school. They will use the money throughout the summer term to promote active and sustainable travel to school.



STEM Workshop



Creative Writing Competition

Congratulations to all learners who entered 'The Glitch' creative writing competition organised by Mrs. Walker, our Librarian. All learners involved received certificates and have the opportunity for their stories to be published in a book.

To celebrate National Careers Week and thanks to funding from the Royal Academy of Engineering, 35 Year 7 learners participated in a STEM workshop making hydrogen powered cars. The learners learnt about sustainable engineering and careers of the future. Learners worked collaboratively to solve problems and design their cars so that they would travel eight metres.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh learners had a superb practice walk in Meriden. Everyone enjoyed their experience and developed their character virtues of compassion, integrity, resilience, and resourcefulness. Well done to all involved and thank you to all colleagues who supported.

30 learners received their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award certificates during a Presentation Evening at Solihull Sixth Form College in February 2024. It was an amazing night and all parents, carers and teachers are so proud of what the learners have achieved.



World Book Day

Lyndon school went all out for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, 2024. Colleagues dressed up as literary characters, the amazing Art and Design department transformed their classrooms into the land of Oz and the English department decorated their doors in the style of book covers. They also arranged a book swap in the library, along with activities and quizzes and held a bookmark designing competition.



The canteen put on a book themed menu, serving up the following literary inspired dishes:

- Mr Twit wormy spaghetti— 'The Twits' by Roald Dahl (spaghetti bolognaise)
- Rat burger— 'Ratburger' by David Walliams (battered chicken burger)
- Bella Italia mushroom ravioli— 'Twilight' by Stephanie Meyer, inspired by Bella's first meal with Edward at Bella Italia restaurant (mushroom ravioli in a creamy cheese sauce)
- Bruce Bogtrotter's chocolate cake—'Matilda' Roald Dahl

The National Literacy Trust's Annual Literacy Survey, recorded the lowest level of reading enjoyment since the trust began its survey in 2005. They found that just 2 in 5 (43.4%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in their free time in 2023, the lowest level since they first asked the question in 2005. The survey also concluded that fewer than 3 in 10 (28.0%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read daily in 2023.

Abid Butt, Principal at Lyndon said:

"Reading is the foundation of education: at Lyndon, I want our young people to not only be confident readers, but to enjoy reading. I am delighted that both colleagues and learners put so much effort into celebrating World Book Day. I do hope everyone went home with something new to read and were stuffed full of rat burgers and wormy spaghetti!"

CBSO Schools Concert

On Wednesday 8th February 2024, learners in Year 7 went to watch the amazing CBSO at The Symphony Hall. Tickets were fully funded by Services for Education and travel arrangements were subsidised by Lyndon so that learners could take advantage of this fantastic event at an inspiring location in central Birmingham. This is just one way that Lyndon School provides Cultural Capital opportunities for its learners.

Before the event Tiannah commented, "I am so excited and curious to see how the experience will go. This will be our first trip where we are all together."

Once inside the Symphony Hall, Tiannah's words were, "It is amazing! There are people everywhere; I am speechless. I have never been anywhere like this before."

After the show, Tiannah commented that she was, "mesmerised by the fascinating instruments" and "seeing how it related to what Miss Prentice had taught us in Music for Instruments of the Orchestra. I think my favourite pieces were Harry Potter and Angry Birds. This is something I will never forget. I would definitely go again if I had the opportunity. It was such a memorable experience. Thank you, Miss Prentice."



Performing Arts

The Performing Arts department has had an exciting term. We held our annual school production in February and this year our learners performed Oliver Jr. After months of hard work and dedication to rehearsals we put on three shows, including a matinee performance for some of our trust primaries. The learners involved in the show were amazing and we received some superb feedback from our audiences.



In Key Stage 4, Year 11 visited Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery to support them with their component 3 element of their BTEC course; they had a great day and found it useful to generate ideas for their final performance which is coming up soon.

This week, Miss Lynch organised a brilliant workshop for Years 9 and 10 - learners were introduced to the art of stage combat! They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working with a professional artist and learnt how stage combat is created and utilised within the Performing Arts industry.

A very busy time for our Careers Department

Our Careers Lead, Mrs O'Donnell has been incredibly busy organising an array of aspirational events for our learners to explore and consider for their future.

In February, we celebrated Apprenticeship Week with a range of events during tutor time including an apprenticeship film and quiz; 'Meet Nana', a Level 2 Community Activator Coach apprentice with Future Youth Zone; and two apprentices from Rolls Royce talked to the learners about their roles and how they secured apprenticeships with Rolls Royce.

Simba Rwambiwa from BBC1's Apprentice 2023 delivered inspiring assemblies to Year 11 and Year 10 learners, relaying his story of overcoming challenges to succeed.

A Year 10 learner commented, "This assembly was insightful and inspirational; it was about Simba starting a care business to help his mom. It enlightened me on how to start a business effectively by demonstrating the importance of belief as well as discipline. I thoroughly enjoyed it."

Thirty learners in Year 10 visited Keble College at Oxford University to gain an insight into life at a top ranked university. Learners participated in a Higher Education quiz and had a tour of Keble College before dining in the Great Hall. It was an inspiring day which raised the aspirations of our learners to aim high.

Two Year 11 learners have been attending Chef Academy at University College Birmingham for the past 8 weeks. Jacob and Hudeyfa started in January 2024 and have attended every Saturday morning since. They have made some amazing dishes along the way. Jacob has shared that he has had the best time and can't wait to start his professional cookery course in September 2024.





English trips and Public Speaking Success

Our learners in Years 7 and 9 were fortunate to have the opportunity visit the Globe Theatre in London this term. We took approximately 300 learners over two days to watch a gritty, modern performance of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. As always, our learners' behaviour was exemplary, and they had a wonderful day.

Year 11 also had a wonderful opportunity to meet some of the brilliant poets behind the Power and Conflict anthology they study, when they went to Northampton at the beginning of February to attend a GCSE Poetry Live. This gave them a chance to listen to and question the poets themselves. They especially enjoyed the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy and John Agard.





Our Community Iftar

On Friday 15th March Ninestiles held its anual community Iftar. It was wonderful to see everyone together for such a special occasion. Along with parents and carers, colleagues and our learners we also welcomed Dawn Ward CBE DL, West Midlands Lieutenancy.

Thank you to everyone who joined us.







Super Safeguarding Squad Takes Off

During the Spring Term, Pegasus Primary School launched our Super Safeguarding Squad. This group of dedicated learners undertook a robust selection procedure, submitting an application form citing their skillsets and credentials in anticipation of being appointed.

The Squad comprises of learners from across the school who are passionate about ensuring Pegasus Primary School continues to be a safe place for everyone. They work closely with school senior leaders to develop new safeguarding practices and educate their peers about online safety.

Their first task was to undertake a school-wide survey of childrens' online app use. The Squad used this survey to collect data on how learners use technology and identify any risks associated with certain apps. This information is now being used to produce safety leaflets and guides to help educate parents and carers about the apps their children frequently use.

In addition to regular meetings, the Squad members also undertake break and lunchtime duties on rota. This ensures that a member is always available to speak with alongside staff members. Everyone can quickly identify them thanks to their custom-printed tabards bearing the Squad logo. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. The school community is proud of the work that they have done so far. By working together, we can ensure that our children are safe and happy both in and out of school.

We look forward to seeing what else the Super Safeguarding Squad will achieve in the future. They truly are a fantastic example of how learners can make a positive impact on their school community.



Enriching the Curriculum through School Visits and Workshops

At Pegasus, we use a wide range of trips and school visits to ensure that our broad curriculum is brought to life. It has been fantastic to see how our learners engage with these experiences and how they support them in developing cultural capital. Highlights for this term include a visit from the animal man, EYFS visiting Martineau Gardens, Year 4 visiting the Think Tank and Year 6 visiting the Black Country Living Museum.





Our School Environment

At The Oaklands, it is important to us to create an engaging and stimulating environment for our learners.

Within our classrooms, our displays are designed to support learners in their learning through the use of working walls, promoting subject specific vocabulary and teacher models.

Our corridor displays promote and celebrate our curriculum, showcasing the amazing work produced by our learners. We are proud of the high-quality work and effort by all our children and welcome anyone to come and see our school.



Live Lessons

This academic year we have been proud to invite parents and carers into our classrooms to participate and support in lessons with our learners. Our recent 'Reading Live Lesson' was a huge success, with families commenting on the fantastic work produced by our learners and the teachers' knowledge of the learners and their next steps. Parents and carers joined us in watching how reading lessons are structured each day and listened to stories read out loud to promote a love of reading. We also shared key tips for supporting reading at home. We are looking forward to our upcoming live lessons throughout the year.





Back to the App

Learners in Year 5 and Year 6 were treated to a workshop from 'Back to the App' this half term. Through drama, they learned about different apps that they may be exposed to. Each class then worked together to create guidelines and safety tips for each app including the age-restrictions around them.

This was an engaging and educational experience for all.



Nursery Hatching

Nursery had an 'eggciting' time observing chicks hatch from eggs this half term as part of our project, 'Are Eggs Alive?' We helped to look after them for two weeks and loved helping to clean them and give them food. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary throughout this project such as incubator, beak and wings. We particularly enjoyed watching them chase the mealworms we gave them and giving them lots of cuddles.





Attwell Farm

Learners in Reception visited Attwell Farm this half term. We fed a range of animals from sheep and goats to alpacas. We were also lucky enough to see a variety of new born baby animals such as lambs, calves and foals. We had a great time learning about all the wonderful animals there. We have also been busy learning about how this grow and have enjoyed making vegetable soup this term and growing our own cress for cheese and cress sandwiches.



Oxbridge Offers

Ten learners at Solihull Sixth Form College have been successful in securing offers from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge this year, following a challenging application process.

Eight learners are hoping to take up places at the University of Oxford and two have offers from the University of Cambridge this year. Six young people are pursuing STEM subjects, two hope to study languages and the other two have offers for creative and social science courses. All had to apply earlier than their peers and go through interviews and entrance exams.

Rohan and Shakur both have offers to study Engineering at Oxford, although their offers are from different colleges. For Rohan, his offer for Engineering from Pembroke College, while Shakur's offer is for Engineering Science at Keble College. Fellow learners Pascal, Dan, Musa and Harry also have offers for STEM courses. Pascal's offer is from New College Oxford to study Physics, Dan's place is at St Catherine's College Oxford to study Computer Science, while Musa and Harry have offers for Natural Sciences and Mathematics respectively, both from Cambridge.

The two learners with offers for language courses are Sara and Joe, both of whom have received offers from Oxford. Sara hopes to take up a place at Worcester College to read French and German, while Joe is looking to pursue a degree in Ancient Near Eastern Studies at University College.

Keziah studies Creative Arts learner and she has an offer from St Hugh's College Oxford, which she hopes might one day lead to becoming a composer for film and television.

Ahmed is hoping to join Keziah at St Hugh's College, but his offer is for the Archaeology and Anthropology degree and he hopes to pursue a career in Palaeontology in the future.

Keziah has this advice for future would-be applicants:

"Although challenging, young people should not be put off from applying. Don't worry about it being too hard or that you're not smart enough - just try your best. It is better to try and fail than not to try at all."

College Principal Dr Martin Sullivan commented:

"Huge congratulations to all ten learners who have been successful in getting Oxbridge offers. This is the most offers we have received in a single year for many years and I do not doubt the hard work our young people have put in to get to this point. I know staff members have also put in a lot of time to support the learners and it is great to see that effort rewarded."



Employability Fair



Learners at Solihull Sixth Form College had the opportunity to think about their future careers this term, when the annual Employability Fair took place.

A host of employers attended the event to set up stands at the careers fair and deliver talks to learners. Among the businesses who came onto campus were BDO, Cisco, Deloitte, Fitnniss, Jerroms, KPMG, Lloyds Banking, Metro Bank, Paragon Bank, Pentagon Play, Sikhs in Law, Skanska, Tilia Homes, VGC Group and Virgin Media O2. The Police, RAF and NHS were also present, as were Birmingham Newman University, Work Pays, Solihull Council and South Birmingham SCITT, which is our teaching school which is part of our the Summit Learning Trust.

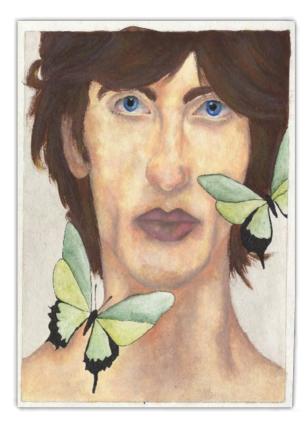
While the careers fair in the College's Sports Hall was open to all learners, an afternoon of employment talks was aimed specifically at BTEC learners and Year 13 employment seekers. Among the topics of the talks were Apprenticeship opportunities and careers in fields such as banking, film and television, health and social care, IT, property development, sport and teaching.

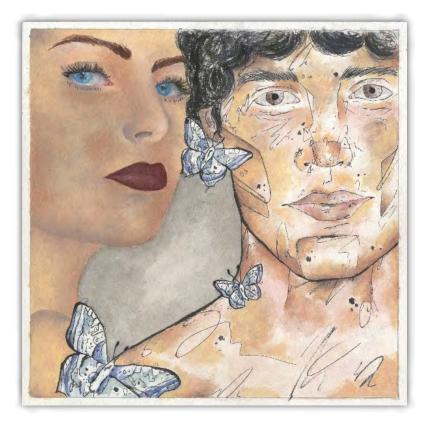
Oona Stone, who is an Assistant Principal at the College, commented:

"We are hugely grateful to all the employers who gave up their valuable time to come onto campus and speak with our learners. We are committed to providing our young people with information about a wide variety of progression opportunities, including higher education, apprenticeships and employment options. While this event focuses more on the employment and apprenticeship options, the Careers and Higher Education Fair we will be hosting in June will focus more on University progression."

Celebrating Outstanding Artwork

Lyndon learner Courtney in Year 11, was awarded Principal's Pick of the Week for outstanding work that had been created over the year in Art, Design and Technology.





More details to follow soon

Join us for lots of fun including activities, stalls, food, refreshments & much more!

KINETON GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE FOR KINETON GREEN DY

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024

office@kinetongreen.org.uk



Summit Learning Trust, Hartfield Crescent, Acocks Green, B27 7QG

Phone: 0121 624 9010 Email: enquiry@summitlearningtrust.org.uk Website: www.summitlearningtrust.org.uk



@Summit_LT