

Gordano Learning

Year 8 Learning Update

Director of Key Stage 3: Mr Snow

Year 8 students led the way in the number of merits awarded between January and March, accumulating over 60,000 merits in the past three months, more than any other year group. Congratulations to all the students who have worked so hard to deserve this recognition from their teachers.

We hope the Guided Choices process is proving straightforward to navigate, although we are aware of some issues with Applicaa for a minority of you and we are working hard to resolve them. The students who attended our recent taster sessions in Business Studies, Travel & Tourism, Health & Social Care and Psychology have come away with a better understanding of those subjects. While making the final choices will not be easy for some, we hope all Year 8 students are excited about the next step in their education. We still have a third of the academic year remaining, and the topics for the summer are listed on page 2.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

It is encouraging to see so many Year 8 students getting involved in life outside the classroom. Several performed or sung in last week's Easter Concert and those of you who came to watch the recent production of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* will have appreciated the quality of the acting, singing and music on display. I was privileged to be invited to see the Year 8 dance workshop at the start of this week and can thoroughly recommend next term's Dance Showcase.

YEAR 8 SPORT

Many of our Year 8 sports teams have had successes to celebrate. Highlights of the term include:

- Year 8 girls football team won the EFL 'Road to Wembley' event
- Year 8 girls hockey team won the North Somerset tournament.
- Year 8 girls were the Avon Schools indoor athletics runners-up
- Year 7/8 boys came 1st in the North Somerset swimming gala
- Year 7/8 girls came 2nd in the North Somerset swimming gala



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 19th April
 Thursday 25th April
 Tuesday 30th April / Wednesday 1st May
 Tuesday 11th – Thursday 20th June
 Friday 21st June
 Monday 1st – Friday 5th July
 Wednesday 10th July
 Thursday 11th July
 Wednesday 17th / Thursday 18th July

Deadline for Guided Choices
 Junior Maths Challenge
 Dance Showcase
 House Celebration Evenings
 House Swimming Gala
 Activities Week
 DT & Computing Celebration Evening
 Sports Day
 Creative Arts Festival

Dream
Big

Do Your
Best

Give
Back

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FLYING START CHALLENGE

Two Year 8 teams got through the initial testing stage and qualified for the regional finals, which were held at the University of the West of England's Engineering Faculty. On the day the students had to fly their gliders, take part in two engineering challenges and stand in front of the other schools and a judging panel of aeronautical engineers from Airbus, Safrane, Rolls Royce and Atkins to present their designs.



Both teams did extremely well in the presentation, explaining costings, manufacture and flight dynamics, backed up by two wonderful A0 posters. The day's challenges were very taxing and showed off the skills of our students: one team made their glider fly further than any other school, gaining maximum points.

Well done to 'Gordano Gliders' and 'Air Killers', plus all the other Year 8 students who worked extremely hard to help both teams do so well. Overall 'Gordano Gliders' came second and have an instant invitation to the grand final to be held later this year. A huge thanks to Mr Earle from the DT Faculty for preparing and supporting the students so well over many weeks in the lead-up to the competition.

YEAR 8 TOPICS TAUGHT IN TERMS 5 and 6

- ENGLISH:** Global Voices and Issues
- MATHS:** Indices, Standard Form, Graphs, Pythagoras
- SCIENCE:**
 - Biology:** Populations, Toxic Accumulations, Soil
 - Chemistry:** Recycling, Global Warming, Climate Change
 - Physics:** Energy Use
- FRENCH/SPANISH:** Food and Drink, including ordering at a shop/restaurant
- GEOGRAPHY:** World Divisions, Journey into Africa
- HISTORY:** Nazi Germany, World War Two, the Holocaust
- ETHICS:** Islam in the United Kingdom
- PSHE:** British Values
- DT:** Product Design, Textiles and Food are taught in rotation
- ART:** Street Art
- DRAMA:** Noughts & Crosses; Peter Pan
- MUSIC:** Storytelling (Music through Time), Songwriting
- DANCE:** Dance Fusion



Above: lamps made from recycled products in DT

