



### Ben Rice Head of School

Somehow it is Christmas already and another term has flown by! It seems like only yesterday we were coming back from a rather damp summer. The great team of staff we have here at the Links have continued to work tirelessly to support the young people and build great learning relationships. I am sure you will join me in wishing all staff a restful and restorative Christmas break.

This Autumn term has been another busy and eventful fourteen weeks. In the past few weeks students have been out to help choose a Christmas tree which they then helped place in the centre of the school and decorated it.

Three students also went out to a local care home where they did Christmas word searches and coloured in Christmas cards with the residents. The first wing of the home we visited had patients with severe Alzheimer's. The students were extremely kind and caring with these vulnerable people. They decorated gingerbread men for them and chatted patiently even when they were not getting much response. I was so proud of our young people and how they carried themselves. Much credit to all three students involved.

We also had a Christmas open afternoon last week where parents were invited in for mince pies and a cup of tea. It was lovely to see conversations between parents and staff and all the successes of the young people.

The year elevens have recently completed mocks and they deserve a lot of praise for how they conducted themselves throughout the exam period. They worked really hard and the outcome of this is an excellent set of results with which to build upon for the real thing next summer.

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## School Calendar

### Term Ends

20th December 2023 at  
12.30pm

### Spring Term

#### INSET Day

Thursday 4th January 2024

### Student Parent Review Day

Friday 5th January 2024

Form Tutors will arrange a convenient time to meet with parents and students.

### Term Starts

Monday 8th January 2023

### Half term

Monday 19th February  
2023  
to  
Friday 23rd February 2023

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All students have been competing hard in the new gym we opened this academic year. Mr Lewis-Morin has started tables which all students are working hard to be top of in areas such as bench press and longest hang on the pull up bar.

Mr Kulha is pressing forward with the music provision and students are starting to get more involved. Hopefully we will be able to put on some performances soon. Ms Faux has been working with all students on the PSHE curriculum giving them knowledge around how they can be safer and make informed choices for themselves in their personal lives as well as in the community.

We have also welcomed Daisy the dog on Friday of every week this term as a therapeutic diversion for our young people. And lastly we are very pleased to say we can now call ourselves a school of character. It is very important to us that the learning we do is not just about academia but about creating well rounded human beings that can function positively in society. The work we do with this has now been recognised by the Character Education Association and we will continue to pursue our three traits of resilience, responsibility and respect. Thank you to Ms Rana for all her hard work in achieving this reward.

I am very excited for what the new year will bring and look forward to the continued development of our school. Thank you for all your support throughout the autumn and wish you all a restful, calm and positive Christmas break in whatever way you choose to celebrate it.

## **Help and Advice**

If you require any help or advice over the Christmas period regarding issues such as support at home, mental health, SEND or victim support please see our website Help & Advice section at :  
[Linksacademyhatfield.co.uk](http://Linksacademyhatfield.co.uk)

## **We say a fond farewell to :-**

Mrs Miller—Attendance/Examinations Officer

## Attendance

You may be aware from the newspapers and various media outlets that the Government is becoming increasingly concerned about the attendance of young people to school and our tightening of the rules and regulations around student attendance.

We are now legally required to inform the Local Authority's Attendance Team when a child has had the equivalent of 10 days' absence from school. The Local Authority is now legally required to intervene much earlier when a child's attendance reaches 10 days.

Whilst fines and court appearances will always be the last resort, both schools and Local Authorities are expected to impose these sanctions when all else fails.

Fortunately, through the work of schools' Attendance Teams and the support of parents, most attendance issues can be resolved before we need to resort to legal actions.

## School of Character

On Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December, Links Hatfield were awarded the School of Character kite mark. This was a very proud moment for us and cements months of hard work from staff and students across the school. Character is intrinsically one of the key aspects of the education that we deliver at Links; we are helping to shape the whole being of all of our young people and encourage them towards making informed, positive choices throughout their lives. The staff deserve to be recognised warmly for their support and hard work in ensuring that character underpins the curriculum we deliver, the conversations we have with our pupils and the manner in which staff model character to our young people. In addition, students also spoke eloquently and confidently about how we are helping to build their character and develop their ability to pick 'the right choices' and make them fit for adulthood. I am sure you will agree how fantastic it is to have been awarded the kite mark and we now set our sights on attaining Kite Mark Plus.

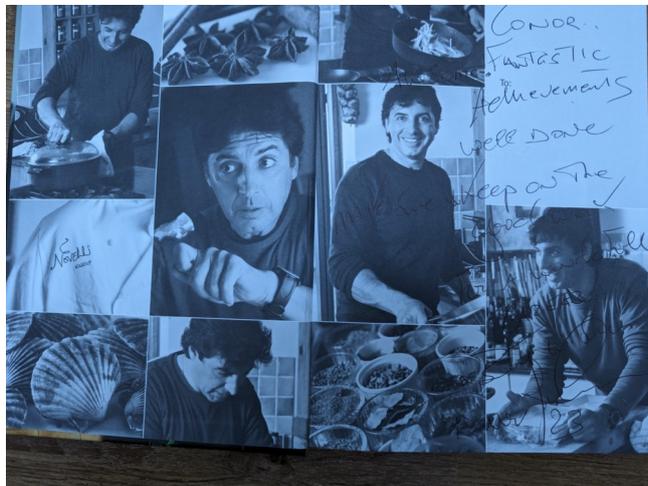
Mrs Rana



# Food Technology

This term Mr Riley is pleased to announce that two of our students were presented with a personalised signed copy of Jean Christophe Novelli's new French cookbook called "Simply Novelli". They received this for their outstanding work in Food Technology. Both students have made great progress from attendance to cooking skills.

Mr Riley is hopeful to be able to invite Jean Christophe into the school to meet the students after his filming of Australia MasterChef 2024



## Chefs Star Awards

Students who have created a great dish, worked above and beyond have put exceptional effort into their work have received the Chef's Star award this term, well done to them all.



## School Christmas Tree

On Friday 1st December we took the students to buy our Links Academy Christmas tree. The students had a really enjoyable time and bought a spectacular tree. They then designed all of the baubles for the tree and this is the end result! Merry Christmas.



# GCSE Art and Design

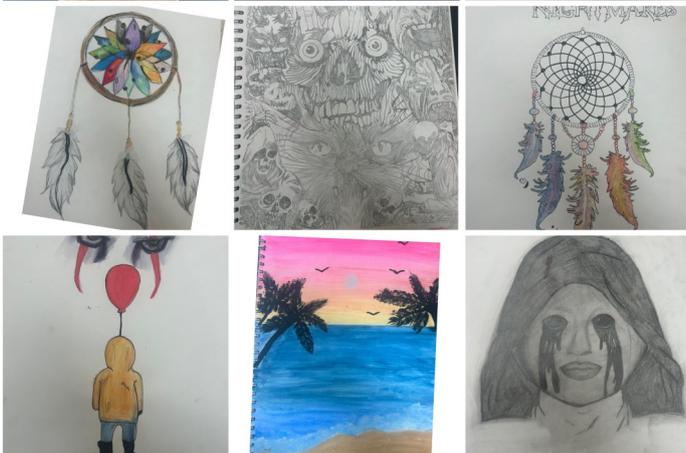


KS3 have been working on a 'Dreams' project this half term. Students have been studying the art movement of Surrealism and have begun researching the work of Rene Magritte. Students have successfully experimented with Magritte's style and techniques in order to complete their own surrealist art work.

Students have engaged very well and have produced some interesting outcomes.

Year 10 Students have now begun their Art GCSE projects. This year they are exploring the theme of 'identity'. They have started by looking at their own identity and what Identity means to them and students are now beginning to explore identity within other cultures.

Students have explored a range of media and techniques and are working on applying a range of the formal elements to their art to create a range of outcomes.

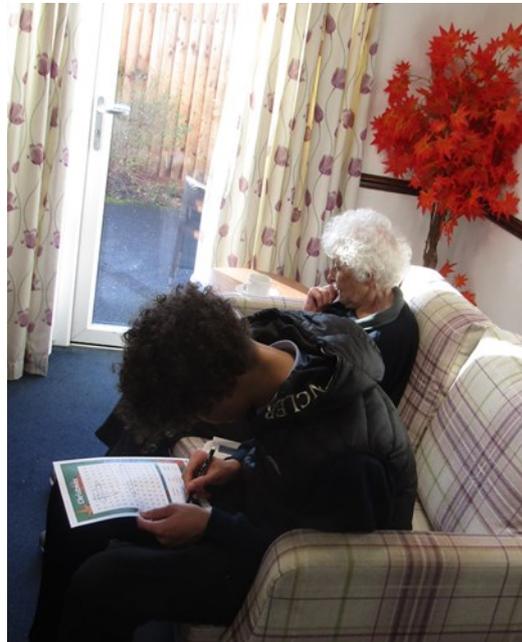


Year 11 students have been working hard on their 'Dreams & Nightmares' project. They are exploring a range of different ideas connected to the theme and have started to identify objects, landscapes and characters connected to either dreams or nightmares. Students are exploring applying tone, colour and pattern to create their outcomes with some fantastic results.

We look forward to seeing what the year 11s produce for their final GCSE project next year!

## Trip to Gold Care Nursing Home—Art

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December we took three students to visit a Hatfield Nursing home. They visited several floors including the Dementia unit and interacted with various residents. Students and residents decorated ginger bread people together, made Christmas cards and completed word searches. It was an eye opening and rewarding experience for everyone involved. Students behaved impeccably and were a credit to Links Academy Hatfield.



## Remembrance Day Project



This year's Remembrance Day service was extremely successful, all students engaged in the assembly and also paid their respect to the fallen service personnel and others fallen in conflicts. The service was led by Mr Crawford with the support of Mr Kulha playing a beautiful tribute on the Saxophone. The service had readings from students, and these student performed outstandingly.

"All the students this year have made me feel proud, their respect and engagement proves through tough times they all are able to demonstrate positive values. I had prepared a lot for this years remembrance day and I felt it was amazing" Mr Crawford.



## Remembrance Day Project

For three weeks leading up to the remembrance day most year groups engaged in a remembrance day project. The majority of students have made two or more items to put in the memorial. The level and quality of work was excellent, and the effort most students put in was great.



## Services for Young People (SfYP) is here to support young people

[Services for Young People](#) (SfYP) provides free youth work projects, information, advice, guidance, work related learning and wider support for young people aged 11-19 across Hertfordshire. This includes helping young people with any challenges that they may be facing, including careers guidance, managing money, independent living, substance misuse, relationships and sexual health and emotional wellbeing.

### How we can help: Careers Advice & Guidance

Are you worried about making plans for the future? SfYP are skilled in supporting young people to their next destination with the help of our friendly and qualified Personal Advisers. Links Academy has their very own SfYP Personal Adviser, Kath Weston, who can support you with exploring your options, completing applications, writing CVs, finding work experience and much more. Kath can be found in school every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am to 12:30pm.

### How we can help: youth work projects

SfYP also delivers a wide range of free [youth work projects](#). As well as learning new skills, these projects enable you to boost your emotional wellbeing, meet new people and challenge yourself to take part in new opportunities. Projects include plenty of different activities, such as recording music in our music studios, sports, drama, quizzes and art. We also have specific emotional wellbeing projects where you can learn CBT techniques to help manage anxiety, as well as projects to develop your confidence and look after your mental health. All of our projects are delivered in our Young People's Centres in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.

### Access Point Projects

Our [Access Point Projects](#) provide information, advice, guidance and support for 13-19 year olds. You can access support for finding work, training, apprenticeships and volunteering opportunities, as well as accessing our youth work projects and young people's relationships and sexual health services.

### How to get in touch?

To [find out more](#) or [sign up](#) you can visit our website ([www.servicesforyoungpeople.org](http://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org)), or you can **email:** [sfyp@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:sfyp@hertfordshire.gov.uk) **call:** 0300 123 7538 or **text:** 07860 022943. You can also keep in touch over Instagram and Twitter (@HCCSfYP).



**Services for  
Young People**



The staff at  
Links Multi Academy Trust Hatfield  
would like to wish you all a  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New  
Year

**Please remember to stay safe**

