



### INSET DAY

At the end of November we held our Inset Day. Following staff feedback, we used this as an opportunity to give staff time face to face (where possible) in their subject groups.

The day started with everyone coming together at their various locations via Teams where the Cygnet Schools development plan was shared.

Staff then split off into their face to face sessions. Subject groups were led by the subject lead and they each completed a Teaching and Learning Task in addition to undertaking some curriculum development and planning.

The Education Officers looked at their ways of working to share best practice and use it as an opportunity to improve/create efficiencies where possible.

HLTA & TA's looked at the importance of questioning for checking understanding and as a formative assessment tool, and explored and modelled four different types of questioning strategy including 'pose, pause, pounce, bounce'; 'funnel questioning'; 'cold calling'; and 'ABC questioning'.

At the end of the day, we all joined a Teams call so each of the groups could feedback on the Teaching and Learning Task and outcomes from the day, some of which are as follows:-

English – The development of reading ages through appropriate testing, identification of texts and retesting to measure impact; plus developing alternative approaches to assessing reading and the development of oracy opportunities.

Maths – Identified a possible teaching and learning development focus on using manipulatives and the use of ICT to increase participation and motivation.

Science – Attendance at science specific conferences/training relevant to a hospital setting, developing ICT Skills for science, developing the use of virtual learning platforms, developing a bank of multi-level science based AQA unit awards.

PSHE & Options – Developing the teaching of independence and resilience skills; alongside teaching study skills including time management, organisation and expectations, plus the effective use of support staff in these subject areas.

HLTA & TA's – Identified some of their teaching and learning development as improved collaboration and sharing of ideas and resources within their team; alongside increasing opportunities for teaching plans and resources to be shared by teachers prior to lessons, so that HLTA's and TA's could work more effectively as a result of knowing what was being taught beforehand.

Education Officers – Reviewed and discussed the activities completed within their role at each of the sites. Standard documents were shared and a new mailbox created for communication and collaboration going forward. Best practice was discussed and a new button to be added to QNICs is to be explored.

The day proved successful and feedback has been positive, so this is something we will look to continue going forward - sharing knowledge, best practice and striving to ensure we are Learning to be all that we can be.

Thanks to everyone for their input and I hope you all have a good Christmas and best wishes for 2024.



**Phoenix School (Sheffield),  
Excel & Exceed Centre (Bury)  
and The Summit (Coventry)  
are DfE registered special  
schools, providing education  
for young people admitted to  
their co-located hospital ser-  
vices.**

**Our schools are regulated by  
OFSTED and were all rated  
GOOD at their last inspection.**

**[Excel & Exceed Centre](#)**

**[Phoenix School](#)**

**[Summit School](#)**



# SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

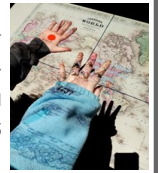


## What we've been up to this month.....



Pupils from Summit School enjoyed a **school trip to Coventry Biennial**. This is a social, political and critical platform for contemporary art, taking a thought-provoking approach to exploring humankind's complex relationship with the world. Beginning with the broad themes of place and the human condition, the fourth Biennial showcases the talents of regional, national, and international artists, to provide a platform for diverse, creative voices.

Pupils from Summit engaged with installations in both the Delia Derbyshire Building and The Herbert Art Gallery. Discussions were had around the purpose of art and our pupils reactions to the art displayed. Pupils especially appreciated Dinh Q. Lê's light and sound installation: The Colony. This showed the Chincha Islands off the coast of Peru from a number of different perspectives, a boat circles the land while drones give a bird's eye view.

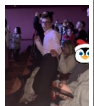


The Excel and Exceed Centre have had a busy month of trips, with two within the space of three weeks! The first was to the **Science and Industry Museum to participate in the 'Food, Poo and You'** exhibit, produced by BBC. This trip was special as it was the first trip that we have utilised public transport to get to the destination. The exhibit itself was interesting, as it took spectators on a journey of the digestive system. Interactive displays were present throughout, with students and staff learning plenty of new information. For the second trip we embarked on a trip the **Royal Exchange Theatre in Central Manchester to watch a play. The play was a musical rendition of 'A Brief Encounter,'** based of the screenplay written by Noël Coward. The production's storyline focuses on several intertwining love stories, of which a majority is featured within a busy train station's café. The students who attended found the play to be enjoyable and comedic- laughing at a range of scenes, sometimes quite loudly! On their return to Cygnet, the Young People told staff and peers about how much they enjoyed the production - being described as "brilliant" by one individual and how they would like to visit the theatre again in the future.



The Phoenix School had an **incredible last school trip of the term with a visit to the historic Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield** to watch the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast'. Often dubbed "the home of pantomime", Sheffield Lyceum Theatre offered our young people both the comedic, interactive viewing of a pantomime and the cultural experience of a traditional theatre with grand architecture and a rich history.

The young people thoroughly enjoyed themselves between snacking, singing along, booing the baddies and laughing at the (often cringe-worthy) jokes—not to mention Dave's dad dancing!



Cygnet Bury's annual **Christmas Fayre** took place on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. The Excel and Exceed Centre packed a punch, exhibiting the talents of the students over the autumn term. In school an art exhibition featured the work created by our students—topics included graffiti and a project based on the Japanese artist, Yayoi Kusama. Additionally, clay pieces created as part of the Kusama project were turned into key-rings and were available to purchase with all proceeds being donated to YoungMinds. Additionally, the choir made an appearance following weeks of preparation. Students, school staff and wider members of the MDT were joined by Voice Assembly to provide the Christmas Fayre with festive music. Well known songs were performed, in addition, a special song written by a former Excel and Exceed student in their music sessions was included too.



Each year at Coventry Joyce Parker Hospital, a **Christmas door competition** is held. The student's judge which department has decorated their door the best! At Summit School, Helen created a 'Chemistree' by getting the students to design baubles based on the elements in the periodic table as part of a Science lesson. The education staff then realised this could be a great foundation for our door... we added book tinsel, a Pi star, a Summit School word cloud trunk and origami decorations based on each of our wards. Fingers crossed, we win!!



At the Phoenix School, we're always trying to find new ways to promote reading for pleasure and over the festive period we've even looked as far as Iceland! **Jolabokafloð** is an Icelandic word translating roughly to 'Christmas book flood'. It refers to the Icelandic Christmas tradition, where families exchange books as gifts on Christmas Eve, before curling up in front of the fire or in bed with a mug of cocoa or a bar of chocolate! We loved this idea so much we tried to replicate it for our students.

Staff started by asking each student in advance what their favourite book was, or to name a book they really wanted to read. We then purchased these for the young people and presented them with their book and a chocolate selection box. The kids loved getting to cosy up with a new book and we hope to continue with Jolabokafloð for years to come.