Alcester Academy WEEKLY BULLETIN

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your support as we complete the second week of another lockdown. We continue to be extremely proud of how the students are responding to their learning from home and you are pivotal in supporting this process for us all. Every week, we get stronger in terms of protocols and routines. I'm grateful for your patience whilst we have been ironing out various elements of home learning again. I acknowledge that the students being at home again puts enormous pressure on households in different ways and I know that this is not ideal. Making the most out of a very difficult situation is appreciated very much indeed.

We hope by now that the various elements to Google Classroom are settling down. There is a Google Training Room don't forget on the web-site that helps show you a few practical ideas to support you from home. We've also cracked a lot of useful functions from a teacher perspective this week that help to keep the lessons on track, as if we were teaching in school. We are expecting impeccable behaviour from home

please in order to facilitate this style of teaching and we are contacting home straight away if we have cause to be concerned by anything said or done unexpectedly in lessons by students. It is absolutely unacceptable for students to join classrooms other than their own, or to share codes with external sources. Thanks for supporting this aspect for us right now. We all appreciate it a great deal.

If a teacher posts on Google Classroom that they are unavailable to teach live, it may well be that they or their family has been affected by covid and I'd ask that for a short while, this is respected. We are all still going through the same issues as you at home right now in terms of the virus and several staff have tested positive since returning after Christmas.

Thanks for your patience also whilst we have been sorting out some tutor meet links this week. Once these are established, we hope that

Term Dates

SPRING TERM 2021

Half Term	Monday 15th – Friday 19th February 2021
Back to school	Monday 22nd February 2021
Spring Term ends (Easter)	Thursday 1st April 2021

SUMMER TERM 2021

Summer Term begins	Monday 19th April 2021
May Bank Holiday	Monday 3rd May 2021
Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021
Back to school	Tuesday 8th June 2021
Summer Term ends	Tuesday 20th July 2021 at 12.40pm
School closed	*Wednesday 21st July 2021*
	Teacher training day

things run smoothly for you and the students.

Of great concern to me right now are those families in receipt of free school meals who are not claiming their lunch time daily fresh 'grab bag'. Mrs Kirby, Office Manager has therefore spent a great deal of time organising supermarket vouchers for those parents who wish to receive these. I'm very grateful for that. We want to support you at a difficult time. Mrs Kirby has made contact with those parents eligible.

Remember that if you are struggling financially at present, there is a Warwickshire Welfare Scheme open for applications.
https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/localwelfarescheme
Their criteria is as follows :

- You are a legal resident in the UK.
- You are aged 16 or over.
- You have no other access to funds or enough resources to pay for food, energy and water bills or other essentials.
- Your situation poses a serious health or safety risk to you or your immediate family.
- Provided Warwickshire is your normal permanent place of residence, we will disregard the criteria of needing to be a resident of Warwickshire for the last six months or three of the last five years.
- If you are from abroad and would ordinarily fail the habitual residence test for the purpose of welfare benefits, the scheme will support an application for support with food and energy top-ups.
- If you are a member of the armed forces and do not meet residency criteria, you should demonstrate a strong connection to Warwickshire.

Sainsbury's TESCO

Headteacher Challenge

Head teacher Challenge
SHOW YOU CARE

Please send me photographs of your *Show You Care* displays. The most impressive display will be deemed the winner. **Closing date is Thursday 21st January 2021 at 9am.** Photos sent to head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Warwickshire *Show You Care* Campaign

Warwickshire are encouraging their residents to display a picture of a heart in their window or share it on social media as a way to show that we are thinking of others in the pandemic.

Displaying or sharing a heart can mean many things, but could include:

- I care about our key workers
- I care about my neighbours
- I care about my grandparents who I haven't been able to see
- I care about missing my school friends and teachers

Heart templates are available on the website: https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/showyoucare

SHOW YOU CARE

The photographs from last week's challenge were amazing. See later on in the bulletin. The standard was just so high, I was absolutely bowled over. Thank you! I've awarded epraise points to all students who entered.

I continue to tweet any innovative ideas or activities on the school account at this time @Alcester-Academy. Don't forget that the extra curricular activities classroom is open to all if you need ideas for after hours or weekends: **3p67ry6**

Parent Courses To support you right now

Warwickshire are offering a number of parent courses at this time for you remotely. These can be accessed through the Family Information Service weekly bulletin, or via their website https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/children-families
As an example:

Sleep Online Workshop Facilitated by Early Help and Targeted Parent Trainer Team

About this Event:
Children are rewarding, stimulating and fun, but looking after them can be stressful and challenging.
These are two-hour interactive workshops to help parents understand the importance of routines and boundaries for children and how to develop and implement them at home reducing stress and helping to create a more cooperative home life.
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/warwickshire-children-and-families-17595309993

family information service warwickshire

Year 7 Contact

If you are a new parents to Alcester Academy at this time, please contact us as needed if we can support you in any way with learning from home. Our existing parents know that they can do this (hopefully!) and we are keen that you don't worry or struggle unnecessarily at this time.

Year 8 Options

We are very aware that under normal school circumstances, year 8s would be preparing for their KS4 options at this time. Because of the lockdown last year and now again, we have discussed our concerns with Governors regarding this and staff are currently consulting on the best route forward for students. We will update parents very soon regarding this.

Immunisations – Year 9

If your child is leaving home to have their routine immunisation soon, do not worry, LSU will update teachers so that they are aware who will be missing from the real time lessons.

Year 10 Exams

Teachers are continuing to prepare year 10s for their internal exams. We aim to deliver these exams as soon as a return to school might allow and parents will be kept updated.

Year 11 update

Despite announcing that school will be part of a consultation this week regarding how the summer term centre assessed grades will be awarded, we have heard nothing yet. We are still unaware of what evidence will be required by schools. Headlines have muted the thought of 'mini exams' or testing this week. As we hear more, we will update you and I can only apologise to our year 11s right now for the uncertainty. The message continues to be 'keep going' please.

A big shout out to those year 11s that sat external exams this week in iMedia and Childcare and for taking part in their lateral flow tests first to be able to do this safely.

Students who are struggling right now at home

Please encourage students who need some school contact to email us: lsusupport@alcesteracademy org.uk

The LSU staff team are working in school and can respond positively.

We absolutely cannot do this right now without your support. I want to thank you all sincerely for the encouragement that you are giving the students from home. I hope that your loved ones are beginning to feel safer as the vaccines are rolled out more widely and that we won't be in this position for longer than is needed. My own dad got his first vaccine today and I'm hoping it won't be long before I can give him a great big hug again or sit in my family home for a cuppa. March was a long time ago and the garden is rather chilly right now!

As ever, we are here for you in whatever way we can support right now. Please reach out as needed.

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing weekend ahead. I'll be in touch again next Tuesday.

Best wishes
Sarah Mellors
Headteacher

MFL Idiom of the Week

English: Once bitten, twice shy

French: Chat échaudé craint l'eau froide

Literal meaning: The scalded cat fears cold water

German: Gebranntes Kind scheut das Feuer

Literal meaning: Burned child shies away from fire

epraise news

epraise week ending 14.1.21

Congratulations to the Top Three Students:

1st—Jack—Year 7 NEW ENTRY
2nd—Maya—Year 7 NEW ENTRY
3rd—Isabelle— 9WA STANDING FIRM

Topping the charts in other years:

Year 8—Josh NEW ENTRY
Year 10—Dan STANDING FIRM
Year 11—Archie STANDING FIRM

Top Tutor Groups:

1st—7HT
2nd—7TY
3rd—7BW NEW ENTRY

7BW just crept passed 7NE and 9WA to take third place this week. Still very exciting!
9WA slipped in to 8th position with 8BL showing an increased energy moving into 7th place.
In other year groups, 10SO takes 9th position and 11BR is in 11th place!

Top Subject and Staff:

Science leads as a subject again this week. Go science!

Mr Bastock leads on the staff board.

Billesley is streets ahead on house points!
Come on Ragley, Oversley and Greville.

Well done everyone!
Mrs Mellors

HM Government

NHS

ENGLAND LOCKDOWN

STAY AT HOME

THE NEW VARIANT OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST. WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.

LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

TRAVELLING

You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.

STAY HOME ▸ PROTECT THE NHS ▸ SAVE LIVES

For more information go to:
gov.uk/coronavirus

Headteacher Work of the Week

Headteacher Work of the Week is from Esther, year 8. Esther has been working on an adaptations and competitions board game during her virtual science lessons with Miss Taylor.

Community Rapid Test Centre - Coronavirus

You can now book rapid testing at the The Other Place Theatre, Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford-upon-Avon.

Please click the following link:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/stratford-upon-avon-covid-community-testing-32080684767

Elevate parent webinar

The first Elevate parent webinar of the term is next Tuesday 19th January at 6pm. It will be focusing on student motivation, giving parents ways to help keep their children motivated during school closures.

The webinar series is completely free for parents at Alcester Academy. The complete schedule of webinars for this term to support parents as much as possible during lockdown is:

Tuesday 19th January:
Increasing and Sustaining Motivation
Tuesday 9th February:
Stress & Wellbeing
Tuesday 2nd March:
Preparing for Assessments
Tuesday 23rd March:
Managing Technology and Distractions

Parents will also be sent the replay link if they have registered so if they miss it live, they can still access it.

The details of next Tuesday's webinar are as follows:

Managing Motivation: How to boost and sustain your child's motivation during lockdown

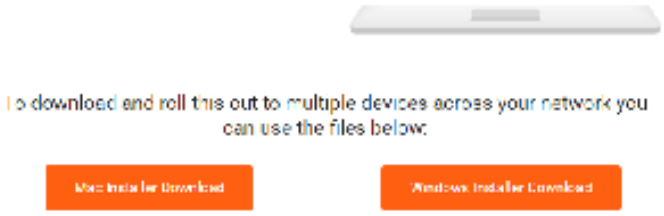
Date: Tuesday 19th January 2021
Time: 6:00 – 7:00pm
Registration link: https://get.elevatecoaching.info/uk/register

Following on from our Elevate Education programme, that started last term, we are pleased to begin to roll out the next stage of the programme. Given the new style of education we find ourselves in, we have amended the Parental Programme to support the current teaching provision. They will be delivering several online live sessions to support parents and boost students' learning in lockdown. A full breakdown of the webinar programme is above. Please make sure that you register using the link provided below.
Mr Bastock

How to update to the new version of Doddle

1) Go to chrome(or your usual browser) and click on https://www.doddlelearn.co.uk/doddle-browser-network-installer/

2) Select the correct one for your machine – either windows or mac and click on it



3) This will then lead you to install the new app on your machine (.msi file) . Follow the instructions. You will have to give it permission to do this and click install etc (this will depend on how your machine is set up)

4) Once the install is complete re-start your machine

5) Now go to the search icon on your normal desktop (the magnifying glass) and type Doddle

6) Then click on the Doddle learn app – this will open a new browser

7) Login as before and off you go

8) Every time you need Doddle now you use the new app from the start menu

Please note that if you have a school issued laptop (not a Lourdes machine) you will need to take the laptop to school for this to be done. Year 10 and 11 should do this in the allocated slots for book collection ideally

LRC News

Year 7 Reading Challenge

I am challenging year 7 to read and significantly improve their AR quizzing between now and the end of lockdown, whenever that may be!
There will of course be chocolate for those that do!
So, today I will print off a list of everybody's word counts and I will compare it to a new list at the end of lockdown - those who have significantly improved their word count by passing AR quizzes will be rewarded - happy reading everyone!

Remember
If you don't have access to physical books, you have access to myON.
https://www.myon.co.uk/login/index.html

Accelerated Reading can be accessed here:
https://ukhosted26.renlearn.co.uk/1893467/

Mrs Hands

Useful Contacts Sheet

Headteacher
Mrs Sarah Mellors head@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Student Learning
Mrs W Woodman is overseeing student productivity, teaching and learning. wendywoodman@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Student Welfare
Miss K Buckthorp oversees student welfare. karenbuckthorp@alcesteracademy.org.uk
Miss Buckthorp is also our designated safeguarding lead.

Curriculum Leads
Lead ICT—Mr P Anderson peteanderson@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead Maths—Miss K Elliott kayleighelliott@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead PE —Mr J Powell jamespowell@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead Science — Miss D Burgess DebbieBurgess@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead Performing Arts — Mr L Hall liamhall@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead English — Mr N Cooke nickcooke@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead Art & Design — Mr J Yarrington jamesyarrington@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead Geography — Ms H Stedman helenstedman@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead History — Mr G Rossiter garethrossiter@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Lead MFL — Mrs Z Weatherley zoeweatherley@alcesteracademy.org.uk

For Philosophy or Theology enquiries, please contact an SLT member

SEND
Mrs A Bush is supporting our students with SEND in conjunction with our specialist teachers.
anitabush@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Attendance
Mrs J Hodges is overseeing daily attendance. Please call in by 9.30am if your child is ill.
jackieHODGES@alcesteracademy.org.uk

IT Enquiries
For IT enquiries, please make contact with Lourdes IT at distancelearningenquiries@alcesteracademy.org.uk

General Enquiries
General enquiries can go to admin@alcesteracademy.org.uk

Headteacher Challenge

How did they do it?

Bea – Painted

Jess – Sweets

Maya – Hama Beads

Chloe – Lego

Ewan – Pasta sheets

How did they do it?

Callum – Hama Beads
Archie – Logo
Jacob – KNex
Bea – Stamps
Alice-Mae – Pasta and Rice
Austin – Pokemon Cards

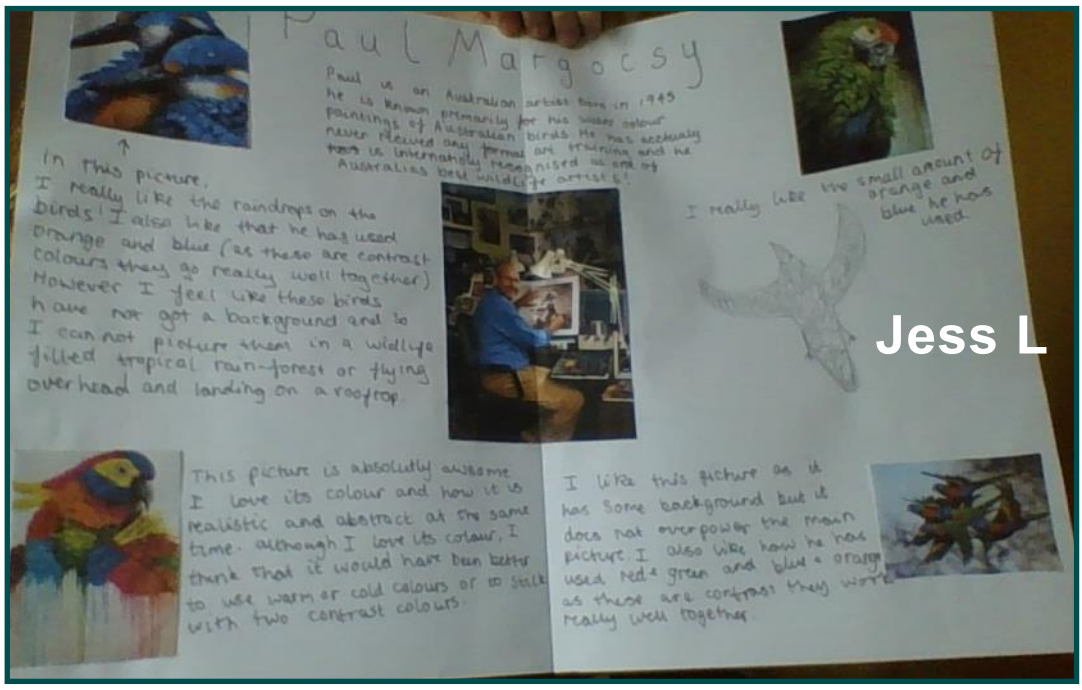
The winners this week are:
KS3 – Alice-Mae
KS4 – Bea
Congratulations!

These two students will be entered for an *End of Lockdown* prize draw to win a voucher.
And epraise points have been awarded to all the students who entered.

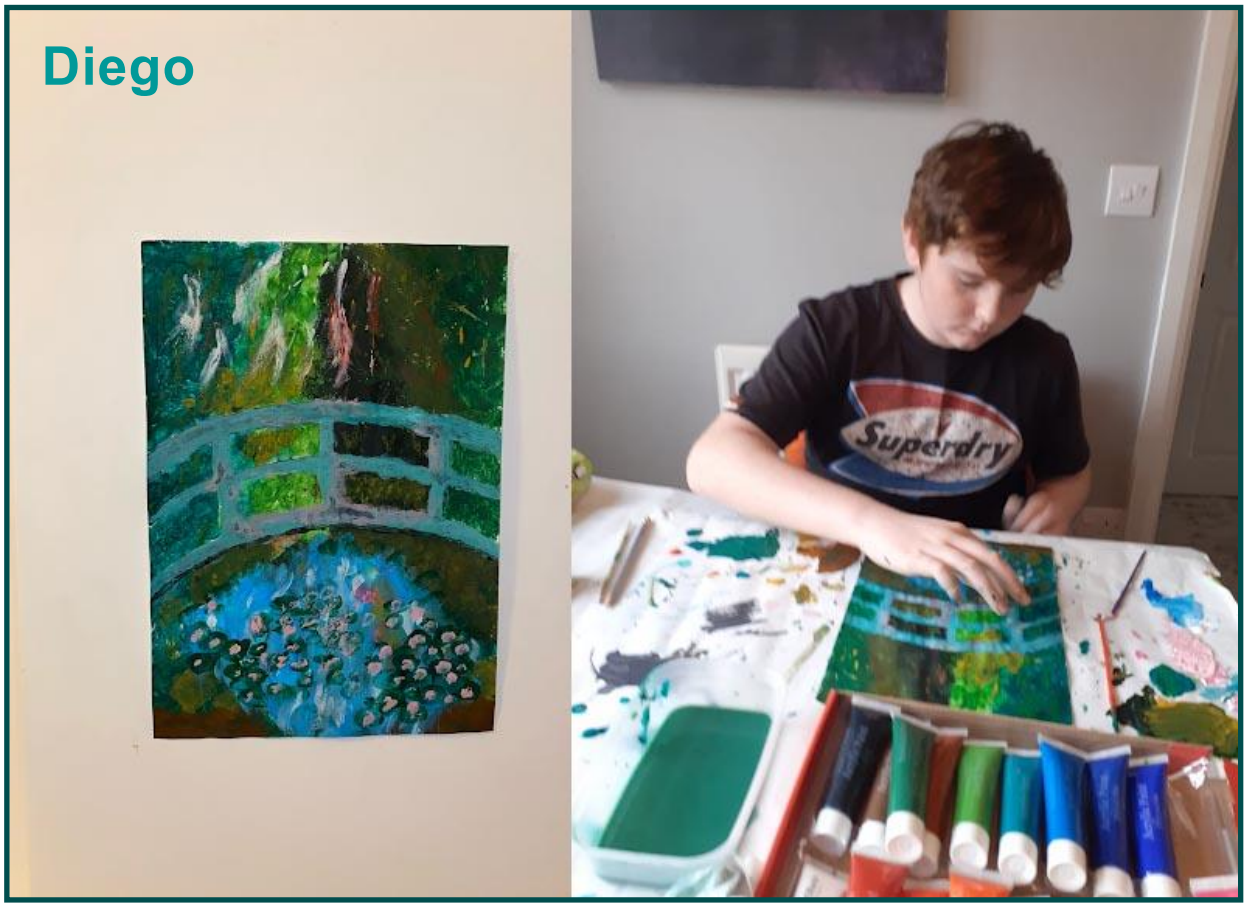
Blown away!
Mrs Mellors

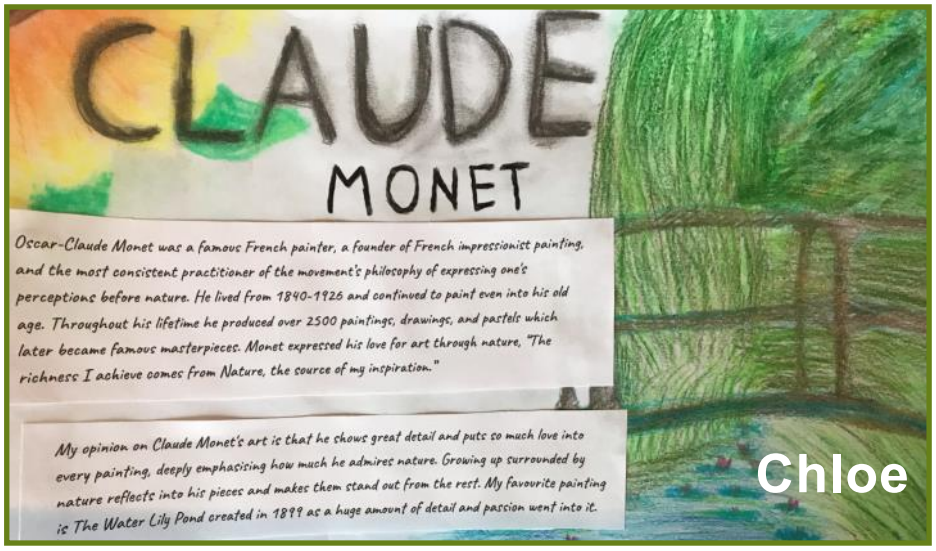
Artwork of the Week

We have got a fabulous collection of artwork this week from our year 7's who have been exploring artists that draw or paint natural forms. Some very creative outcomes from students with limited resources. Well done!



Jess H


Diego
Superdry

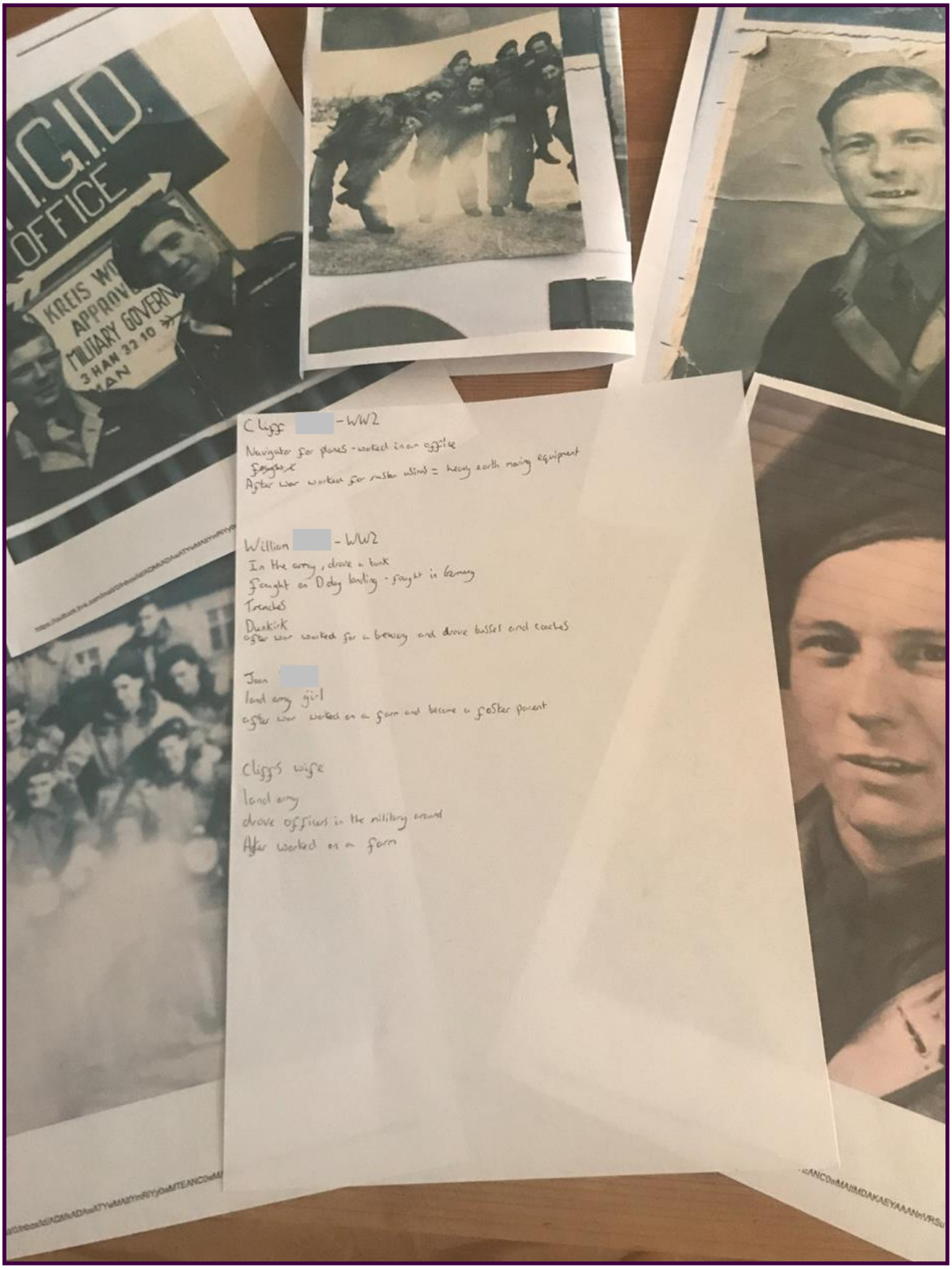

CLAUDE
MONET
Oscar-Claude Monet was a famous French painter, a founder of French impressionist painting, and the most consistent practitioner of the movement's philosophy of expressing one's perceptions before nature. He lived from 1840-1926 and continued to paint even into his old age. Throughout his lifetime he produced over 2500 paintings, drawings, and pastels which later became famous masterpieces. Monet expressed his love for art through nature, "The richness I achieve comes from Nature, the source of my inspiration."
My opinion on Claude Monet's art is that he shows great detail and puts so much love into every painting, deeply emphasising how much he admires nature. Growing up surrounded by nature reflects into his pieces and makes them stand out from the rest. My favourite painting is The Water Lily Pond created in 1899 as a huge amount of detail and passion went into it.
Chloe

katerina
apale
Katerina Apale was born and raised in Riga, Latvia. She says the fact that her mother was an artist explains why she started to paint before she could walk. Throughout high school, art class was always a must and as soon as her final year had finished, she enrolled at the Art Academy of Latvia. She is an Internationally Exhibited artist with her works hung in galleries in Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Russia, Belarus, Austria, Germany, and Australia. She is the 2016 winner of the 22nd Margaret Smith Memorial Art Prize.
Katerina Apale creates many artworks with subjects ranging from floral still life paintings to a group of girls blowing bubble. Her art is composed of many bright colours.
Katherine

Faith

Two excellent examples of year 8 surrealist collages from Katie and Lucas.

Our year 9 students have been busy investigating their ancestors' roles in conflict, with some amazing results. Images from Maisie and George.


I.G.I.D.
OFFICE
Cliff [redacted] - WW2
Navigator for planes - worked in an office
Fought
After war worked for master wind = heavy earth moving equipment
William [redacted] - WW2
In the army, drove a tank
Fought on D day landing - fought in Germany
Trenches
Dunkirk
After war worked for a brewery and drove bussel and coaches
Joan [redacted]
land army girl
after war worked on a farm and became a foster parent
Cliff's wife
land army
drove officers in the military around
After worked on a farm

Food Technology Star of the Week

Thomas in year 7, has made a fruit salad and a tuna pasta salad for his family this week. And now Thomas is planning on baking some savoury scones next week. Great practical work on lunchbox snacks!

Need IT support? Try Lourdes IT as a student or parents:

Call: *01527 376 068*

Email: *studenthelp@lourdesit.org.uk*

Live Chat and Self Help: *https://help.lourdesit.org.uk*

Or make queries through: *distancelearningqueries@alcesteracademy.org.uk*