The Fermain Academy Newsletter

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December 2024

A MESSAGE FROM MR COTTERILL

As we approach the end of another busy and productive term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many achievements of our students. December is always a time to celebrate progress, and I am incredibly proud of the effort and resilience our young people have shown this term. Through our four school values of - Respect, Ready, Resilience and Responsibility, we challenge and support the students in equal measure each and every day.

Our focus on supporting both academic and personal growth continues to shape our approach, ensuring that every student feels valued, supported, and ready to achieve their potential. Whether it's through improved attendance, personal successes, or contributions to our school community, each milestone matters, and we celebrate them all.

Attendance in school has continued to grow through the term. It is so important for the students to be in school every day. We understand at times it can be a challenge but attending school every day will significantly increase the outcomes for the students and prepare them for the next stage of their journey.

Engagement in lessons has been a real positive for so many of our students over the term. We have challenged every student to attend all lessons and be active and engage in the learning. So many of our students have taken us up on this challenge and the 'buzz' in our lessons is lovely to see.

Sporting prowess has been evident this term. We have held the first ever Fermain Open pool tournament where staff and students were drawn together to compete for the Fermain Open Pool Championships. Many close contests took place until we were left with the final two students (Tia and Jai) in a best of 3 final. Jai was our deserving winner with a 2-0 scoreline. Well done to everyone who took part and we look forward to holding more competitions in the New Year.

Our students also organised a football tournament where both staff and students joined forces in teams of 4. After a week of some quality football and the odd pulled muscle the winning team were: Mr Jackson, Dylan, Jamie, Dawid and Dan. Well done to Rylan for being a fabulous referee.

We have just celebrated a great end to the term with groups of students visiting the Chill Factore, Ninja Warrior Inflata Nation, and Ten Pin Bowling with Hot chocolate from Costa, Chips, Sausages and curry sauce and McDonalds thrown in 😳

As we enter the festive period, I hope you all enjoy a restful and happy time with your families. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year.

We look forward to welcoming students back in January, refreshed and ready for the opportunities the new term will bring.

Warm regards,

Mr Simon Cotterill
Executive Headteacher

KEY DATES

06/01/2025 - INSET DAY for staff

07/01/2025 – School Re-opens

13/01/2025 – Year 11 Construction Health and Safety and Work Day

14/02/2025 – School closes for half-term

03/03/2025 – Year 11 Construction First Aid at Work Day

03/04/2025 – End of Term Trips

04/04/2025 – School closes for Easter

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is at the heart of the Fermain Academy, ensuring every young person feels safe, valued, and supported. We provide a safe and secure environment where they can thrive. We empower our young people to overcome barriers, build trust, and achieve their potential. Safeguarding is not just a policy but a commitment to protecting their wellbeing and enabling brighter futures.

If you have a safeguarding concern during out of school hours please telephone: 07512 314985 or email safeguarding@thefermainacademy.org

Phone calls and emails will be monitored during the holidays, but not full-time.

If you are a student who is worried about themselves or somebody else:

Dial 999 in an emergency
NSPCC Helpline 0808 800 5000
SHOUT text 85258
Childline 0800 11 11

If you have concerns about the wellbeing of a child, you can also call CHECS (Cheshire East Children's Services) on 0300 123 5012 or 0300 123 5022 (out of hours).

Rachel Ward
Senior Pastoral Officer and Designated Safeguarding Lead

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

At The Fermain Academy, we believe education goes beyond the classroom. This term, our students have embraced the great outdoors, taking their learning to new heights—literally and figuratively—through our engaging Outdoor Education program.

From woodland adventures to team-building exercises, our students have experienced hands-on learning that fosters resilience, problem-solving, and a deep connection to nature.

Highlights include navigating local trails, building shelters, and working collaboratively to overcome challenges. Whether it's learning survival skills or simply enjoying a reflective moment in the fresh air, these activities empower our students to grow in confidence and creativity.

Outdoor Education isn't just about fun (though there's plenty of that!); it's about cultivating skills that last a lifetime. By stepping outside of their comfort zones, students discover new talents, deepen friendships, and gain a fresh perspective on learning.

Thank you to our dedicated staff and enthusiastic students for making this term's Outdoor Education experiences so memorable. Together, we're creating opportunities that inspire growth and bring our values to life.

Here's to more adventures ahead!

SKILLS CENTRE UPDATE

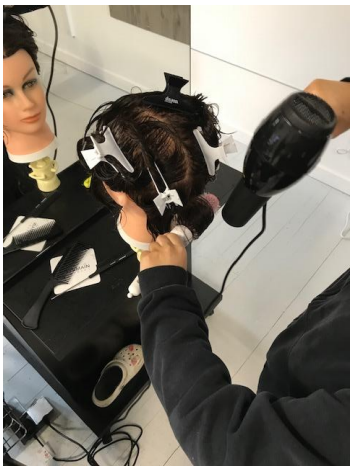
This half term at the Skills Centre has been busy and exciting. We have had two Salon Open Days where parents and carers came in and had various treatments.

The Year 11 Construction class have been fortunate to have achieved a Manual Handling at work certificate which is something they can now put on their CVs ready for September when applying for college or apprenticeships. We have also arranged for the new year First Aid at work and Health & Safety at work

Year 11 students in Textiles have started making their final pieces. When these are completed we will be inviting parents in for an exhibition.

We have also secured the IQM Flagship status (Inclusion Quality Mark) for the 3rd year on the run and this years achievement was around the success of opening the Skills Centre. We are the only Alternative Provision in the country to achieve this award

Some exciting new equipment in Textiles for Screen printing



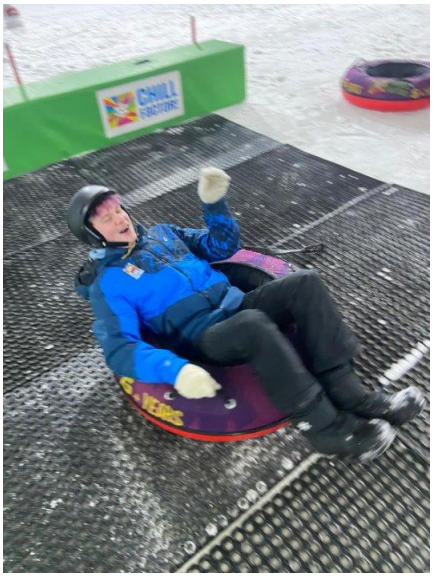
Some new skills developed by our Hair and Beauty students

A selection of some of the work achieve in Construction this term

END OF TERM ADVENTURES – A DAY TO REMEMBER!

Yesterday was an unforgettable day for Fermain Academy students as we celebrated the end of the term with four incredible trips. Each destination offered a unique experience, and it was wonderful to see our students enjoying themselves after all their hard work this term.

Chill Factore
Students who visited Chill Factore embraced the icy thrills, trying out sledging and donuts on real snow. The joy and laughter were contagious as everyone enjoyed a taste of winter magic, even in December.



Ten Pin Bowling
At Ten Pin Bowling, students had a blast competing for strikes and spares. It was all about friendly competition, great teamwork, and plenty of high-fives as scores climbed and fun soared.

Inflata Nation
Those who went to Inflata Nation bounced into a world of fun. From giant slides to ball pits, the inflatable park was the perfect playground for endless laughter and excitement.

Ninja Warrior
The Ninja Warrior trip saw students pushing themselves to new limits, navigating challenging obstacle courses with determination and skill. The energy and effort were inspiring, and everyone left feeling like true warriors!

These trips were a brilliant way to wrap up the term, creating lasting memories and celebrating the achievements of our amazing students. A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make these adventures possible.

Here's to a wonderful Christmas Break and another exciting term ahead at Fermain Academy!

HAF-Funded Hampers Supporting Students at The Fermain Academy

We are thrilled to announce that The Fermain Academy has partnered with the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme to provide specially curated hampers to our students and their families. This initiative aims to ensure that everyone in our school community has access to nutritious food and essential resources during the holiday season.

What is HAF?
The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, funded by the Department for Education, is designed to offer enriching activities and healthy meals to children and young people during school holidays. At The Fermain Academy, we understand that the Christmas holiday period can sometimes be challenging for families, and these hampers are a small but meaningful way of supporting our students beyond the classroom.

What's in the Hampers?
Each hamper is packed with a selection of healthy food items, snacks, and some festive Christmas goodies to brighten the holiday season. From hearty staples to sweet treats, the hampers are designed to ease the financial pressure on families during the holidays while spreading a little Christmas cheer.

Included in the hamper is an exciting gift voucher for a family bowling session, offering students the chance to enjoy some fun and relaxation during the festive period.

At The Fermain Academy, we are committed to ensuring every child has the tools and support they need to thrive, both academically and personally. Initiatives like the HAF hampers are part of our broader mission to create a caring and inclusive school environment.

Thank You to Our Supporters
We extend our heartfelt thanks to the HAF programme for making this initiative possible and to our dedicated staff who worked tirelessly to prepare and distribute the hampers. Together, we're making a difference.