

The Autumn Term round-up

As we reach the end of this first term, I want to take a moment to thank all our pupils, families, and staff for their hard work and commitment. It has been a fantastic start to the academic year at Ethos College.

We have welcomed new pupils into our community and celebrated the return of familiar faces, creating an environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

This term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities—from exploring identity through our ‘Who am I?’ theme to hands-on science in ‘Bubbles, Bangs and Burning’, as well as practical experiences in Home Cooking and Forest School. These activities have

helped pupils develop confidence, resilience, and a love for learning.

As we look ahead to the new year, we remain committed to helping every pupil achieve their goals and continue to grow both academically and personally. Thank you for your ongoing support—it truly makes a difference.

On behalf of everyone at Ethos College, I wish you a joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming you back in January for another successful term.

Warm regards,
Mel Kilner
Head of School

African Drumming workshop

This term pupils have had the opportunity to experience the vibrant rhythms of Africa in an engaging African drumming workshop.

Pupils dove into the basics of rhythm and percussion using traditional djembes and other authentic instruments. Pupils explored the rich sounds and musical traditions of Africa through interactive drumming sessions.

Every pupil got the chance to not only learn to play the djembe but also experience a sense of unity and cultural appreciation as they became part of a dynamic drum circle; learning about the importance of wider and more holistic skills such as: turn taking, listening, respecting, resilience and teamwork.



Spotlight on Supporting Me to Learn Plans

At Ethos College, we are committed to ensuring every pupil receives the support they need to succeed academically and socially. One of the key ways we achieve this is through our **'Supporting Me to Learn Plans'**. These plans include **SMART** targets (**Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound**) tailored to each pupil, along with any necessary adaptations and strategies to help them meet these goals.

Once created, these plans are shared with our staff team. Teachers use the recommended strategies and adaptations to plan highly effective lessons that promote rapid progress in both academic learning and social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) development. This approach helps pupils embed knowledge into their long-term memory, improving overall attainment.

Support staff also play a vital role by using these strategies to assist pupils during

lessons, ensuring they have the guidance needed to achieve their targets. Progress is monitored through a combination of verbal and written feedback, as well as summative and formative assessments, allowing us to celebrate successes and identify next steps for improvement.

By working together, we create a learning environment where every pupil can thrive and reach their full potential.

If you have any questions regarding your child's Supporting Me to Learn Plan, please contact group staff or Lindsey, our SENCO



Home Cooking

Our Home Cooking Skills curriculum aims to give pupils the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy cooking meals at home.

Pupils are shown how to cook healthy, nutritious meals in a fun environment and are taught that food doesn't have to be boring to be healthy.

Each half term follows a different theme linked to our thematic curriculum and, at the same time, pupils are taught a range of preparation techniques and skills such as the correct use of electrical items, knife cutting skills, hygienic food.

Here are some photos from Soup Week, Students made soups and Jam Tarts. This links to the Bubbles, Bangs and burning theme of this half term, but also makes

reference to WW2/Remembrance Day and rationing; as people were encouraged to 'grow' foods that they could eat as meats/dairy were sparse. It also encouraged young people to look at cost effective ways of cooking, and being economical as vegetables are cheaper to buy, and soups are really good for freezing and using at a later date!



Rich takes on the West End!

At the beginning of the year, the highly acclaimed theatre producer Cameron Mackintosh and Music Theatre International (MTI) announced LET THE PEOPLE SING, a UK-wide theatre project celebrating the 40th anniversary of Boublil and Schönberg's worldwide phenomenon, Les Misérables, throughout 2025.

The project, which ran from March 2025 to August 2025, saw 11 productions of Les Misérables: Let The People Sing being mounted in cities across the United Kingdom. The show, which continues to play to packed houses in London's West End, was staged in: Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Nottingham, Norwich, Porthcurno (Cornwall) and Swansea.

Our very own Rich Billings was cast one of the principal characters at the Leeds Grand Theatre production back in March 2025. He played the role of Thenardier who is the antagonist of the show and sings the infamous number 'Master of the House'.



Following the success of the UK-wide production, Rich, along with some of the cast members from across the 11 different productions, were invited to perform at The Royal Variety Performance at the Royal Albert Hall in November. The show's finale was the biggest in Royal Variety history, celebrate the 40th anniversary and featured 400 performers including Michael Ball, Matt Lucas, Katy Secombe, Bradley Jaden and Killian Donnelly, along with the West End and Paris casts, and amateur companies from all over the UK.



The Royal Variety Performance hosted by Jason Manford will air on ITV on Sunday 21st November.



Ethos College Joins Restart a Heart Day

This term, pupils and staff at Ethos College took part **in Restart a Heart Day**, learning vital CPR skills that could save lives. Guided by professionals, pupils practiced chest compressions, learned how to recognise cardiac emergencies, call for help, and use a defibrillator.

The event gave pupils confidence and practical knowledge, empowering them to act in real-life situations. We are proud of

their enthusiasm and maturity throughout the day.

Thank you to everyone who supported this important initiative—together, we are helping create a safer community.



Group News

Hear from our groups on what they have been getting up to during the last term.

Group 1

This term, Group 1 students at Ethos College have engaged and progressed in varying learning experiences.

In Maths and English, they have developed core skills, using the text-drivers Harry Potter and Letters From The Lighthouse which inspired both fiction and non-fictional pieces of writing. Through Votes for Schools, students have debated different topics and practiced their oracy skills. In Maths we have consolidated and built on knowledge of Place Value and Addition and Subtraction.

In Thematic lessons, students studied their local area in Geography and how places have changed over time, resulting in a visit to Leeds City Centre to see some

of its Human and Physical Features. In History, we have studied the Second World War, creating Anderson shelters, poppies, and exploring propaganda posters.

Students continue to make the most of their Forest School sessions, enjoying hands-on learning in the outdoors every Tuesday morning and home-cooking every Monday morning.



Group 2

This term has been a busy and exciting one for Group 2.

In English, students have been diving into the world of Harry Potter, focusing on word classes and crafting their own imaginative imagery.

Alongside this, they have explored Private Peaceful, developing their understanding of both fiction and non-fiction writing features while linking their learning to the wider thematic topic of war.

Students have also taken part in Votes for Schools, engaging in debates on real-world issues to strengthen their oracy and critical thinking skills.

In Maths, the class has been practising core skills, including short and long division, and applying these methods to exam-style questions to build confidence and accuracy. Our Thematic lessons first centred on the local area, where students investigated natural and man-made structures and took local visits to

enrich their understanding. More recently, they began studying World War II, producing their own propaganda posters and poppies, and exploring the impact of the war on communities.

Group 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their weekly Forest School sessions every Tuesday, learning about fire safety and engaging with the natural environment.

Meanwhile, in Home Cooking Skills on Wednesdays, students have been experimenting with bold, exciting flavours to create a range of delicious dishes.

It has been a fantastic term, full of creativity, exploration and hands-on learning!



Pupils in group 3 have been getting involved in community projects.

Recently, they have had the chance of working alongside the park ranger at Oakwell Hall in Batley. This was a great opportunity as pupils got to see what is involved in being a park ranger. All pupils got stuck in, raking the leaves and then loading them into compost

bases showing great teamwork and resilience



Group 4

This half term, Group 4 students at Ethos College have demonstrated impressive engagement and progress across a wide range of learning experiences.

In Maths and English, they have developed core skills, with a particular highlight being their exploration of the magical world of Harry Potter, which inspired both creative writing and problem-solving activities.

Through Votes for Schools, students have strengthened their communication skills and learnt to evaluate differing viewpoints with maturity.

Science has been especially exciting, with investigations into “bubbles, bangs and burning,” which even inspired their home cooking as they produced an impressive selection of homemade “bangers.”

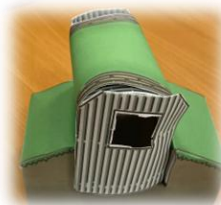
Several students have also continued their work at BUMPY, developing confidence and practical skills in motorbike maintenance. Alongside this, our regular

trips to the skate park have enabled students to encourage one another and build their skills in a supportive environment.

In Thematic lessons, students studied the Second World War, creating Anderson shelters, poppies, and exploring propaganda posters.

As part of their preparation for adulthood, they have begun identifying future courses and colleges that interest them.

To round off each week, students continue to make the most of their Forest School sessions, enjoying hands-on learning in the outdoors every Friday afternoon.



Group 5

Group 5 have had a busy and exciting half term, filled with opportunities to develop their independence and prepare for life after school.

As part of their next step to post-16, pupils visited local colleges, explored different departments and spoke to staff about the courses available. They also took part in careers fairs where they were able to ask questions, gather information and begin to make informed choices about their future pathways.

In Home Cooking Skills, the group investigated the science behind “bubbles, bangs and burnings,” linking practical cooking to real scientific ideas. They explored how gases help toad in the hole rise, and how yeast fermentation causes

bubbles in bread dough. Pupils enjoyed seeing how heat, reactions and ingredients work together to create familiar dishes.

To end the half term, Group 5 embraced the festive spirit with a brilliant team effort decorating our Christmas tree. Everyone contributed their creativity, communication and teamwork skills, resulting in a fantastic and cheerful display. The classroom now feels warm, festive and ready for the run-up to the holidays.