



Southfields Academy Weekly Newsletter

Week Commencing Monday 28th March 2022



Ethos statement: We believe that through individual commitment, self-discipline, integrity and respect for others, we inspire everyone to learn.

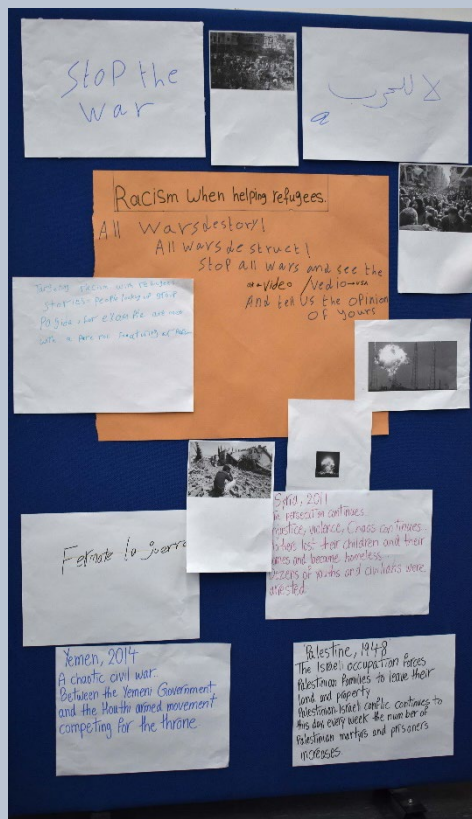
International Group – Citizenship Action Day – Ms Swann

Last Wednesday, 30 international group students spent the day creating social impact projects on an issue raised within the Citizenship GCSE course. All of the students worked so hard throughout the day and created projects to be proud of. Many of the students reflected on their own experiences in moving to the UK and created impressive videos alongside their posters. Students will reflect on the process of working with others and their campaigns in their GCSE exams this summer.

The students created projects on the following issues:

- Homelessness
- Plastic in the oceans
- Gender equality
- War and refugees
- Voting and democracy

Well done to all the students for their hard work and dedication.





Thought for the Week

"It's hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse." Adlai E. Stevenson II



Science Club – Mr Clarke

Paper Aeroplanes

In this week's science club, students made and flew paper aeroplanes! Revolutionary designs had aerodynamic marvels soaring through the air in what was mostly an excuse to enjoy the weather on the science department balcony.

I thought this would be a nice, easy activity for our science club regulars to enjoy, but I'm not sure we'll do it again – there was just so much paperwork...



Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 29th March 2022 – Concert for Ukraine, St Barnabas church, 5.30pm

Friday 1st April 2022 – Academy Breaks for Easter Holiday

Friday 1st April 2022 – INSET Day

Tuesday 19th April 2022 – Academy Resumes

Thursday 21st April 2022 – Year 11 Parents' Evening

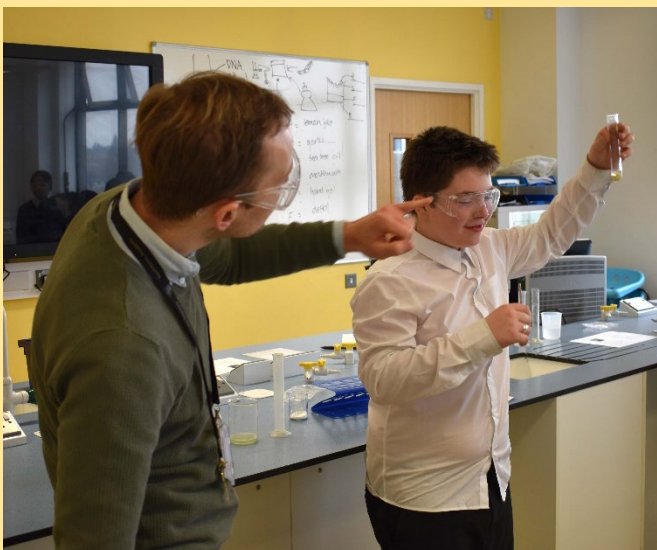
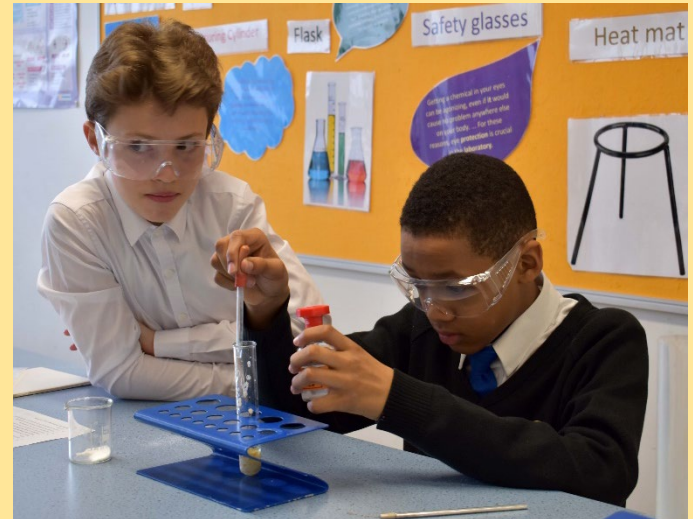
Science Week – Mr Clarke & Ms Toffolo

Between the 14th and 18th of March, Key Stage 3 students (Years 7-9) were given the opportunity to enjoy a special set of lessons based on the theme of growth for this year's British Science Week. They extracted DNA from bananas, made plastic from milk and tried to inhibit the growth of bacteria! Thanks to Ms Gibson for her excellent shots of the process...



Banana DNA Extraction

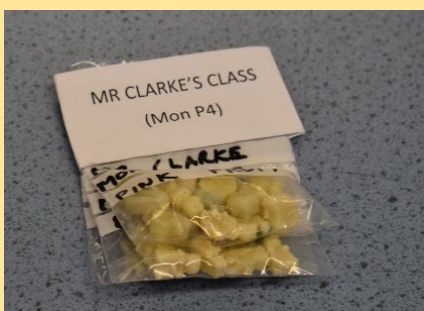
Why do the Science department love bananas? Because they are very ap-peeling! But perhaps they're so appealing due to our similarity to them. Did you know that 60% of the genes in our DNA can be found in the DNA of a banana?! DNA controls how an organism grows and what characteristics it will display, so our students went looking for this unique molecule and successfully extracted banana DNA.



Milk Plastic

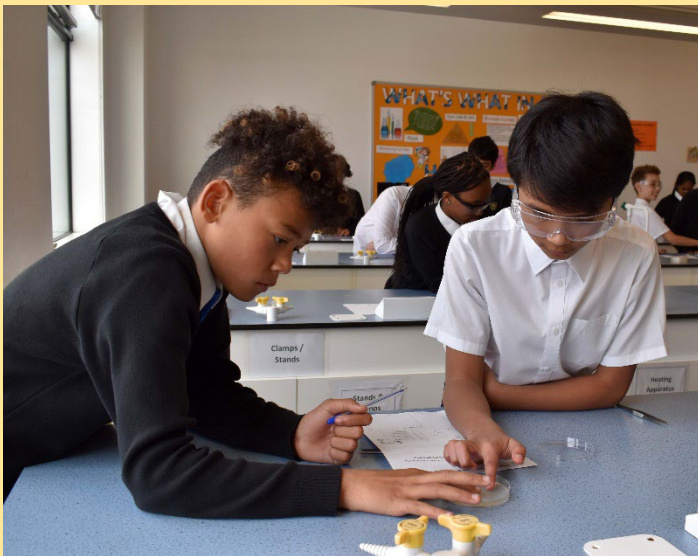
In another experiment, students travelled back in time and found that plastics were once made from... milk?! In a process similar to that for making paneer and ricotta cheese, acid is added to hot milk.

This causes a protein found in milk - casein - to change shape and become "sticky". Thousands and thousands of these molecules then coagulate and grow into very large macromolecules. After being shaped and dried, the milk protein has become plastic. Although it resembles white chocolate, I wouldn't recommend taking a bite...



Growth Inhibition

In this experiment exclusive to Year 7, students looked at which substances best inhibit bacterial growth. First, they had to find a place rich in bacteria to swab – and what better than their phones!?! Our Y7 students then added natural and artificial antibiotics to their petri dishes, including garlic, hand gel and tea tree oil, which all have the power to kill bacteria. To the relief of Dettol Inc., their product was indeed more effective than garlic!



Growth Research

After this, students carried out research projects looking at the growth and life cycles of different organisms. They created some magnificent posters and performed informative presentations on their chosen topic.





CONCERT FOR UKRAINE - Tuesday 29th March at 5.30pm - 7.00pm – Mr Pinder

The music department will be hosting a live spectacular in aid of Save the Children.

This fantastic music concert will take place in St Barnabas Church, 146 Lavenham Road, SW18 5EP (200 metres from The Aspire at Southfields).

We would really love all parents and staff to attend and support our amazingly talented students in their first major concert after what has been a crazy, stressful two years.



There will be, in addition to hot cross buns, a brilliant Year 7 band who will definitely rock the house as well as students from Years 8 to 13 performing musical classics and helping to create the most wonderfully harmonious event.

The students' are very keen to share this occasion with you and help the people of Ukraine at the same time. There is no entry fee but there will be a retiring collection for Save the Children.

Parents' Evening

Thank you to all those parents who have been able to come on site for either Year 9 Options Evening on 3rd of March or Year 8 Parents' Evening on 24th March.

It was such a valuable and positive experience for us as staff to have those important conversations about your child's progress face to face.

We look forward to welcoming parents and families to further events at the Academy as the year progresses.



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