

Specialist Status continues

Specialist Status and Leading Edge are reviewed by the local authority and Specialist School's and Academies Trust every four years. The end of last summer term was a very busy time for us in the Specialist School team as our Status was reviewed and Inspectors analysed the impact that we had had upon raising attainment and achievement both here at Cams Hill School and within our community partner schools.



We were delighted that we passed this review with flying colours and that Cams Hill School has been re-designated as a Science and Maths Specialist and Leading Edge School. In his summary the Inspector reported -

"The recommendation is that the school is re-designated because:

The school has used the Specialism not only to improve the outcomes in Science in the school, but to improve other subjects' outcomes and to raise achievements across the school. It has supported well and in depth, across a wide range of schools and other partners across a wide geographical area the science education of young people and wider ECM and family learning outcomes. It is an evident leader of science education in the region with contributions nationally."

Mr C.D. Wilson - School Improvement Partner

ICT to enrich and extend Mathematics



Mrs Barton has led the way with some innovative Maths teaching and learning this year. Specialist funds were used to purchase 16 Nintendo DSs, with the aim of improving mental arithmetic skills in a way that is both engaging and fun.

The Maths Department is regularly using these to run competitions in many lessons between pupils and this has proved highly successful. Also they offer a mechanism to engage pupils and assist in their one-to-one mentoring as recommended by a recent Government initiative. This project has been praised by the Hampshire Maths Inspector/ Advisor. During the year, Mrs Barton has been able to support teachers in other secondary and primary schools with training on how they too can use Nintendo DSs to enrich and extend learning in Maths.



"Using the Nintendo DS offers me a way of really motivating some pupils - particularly some of the boys. They wouldn't buy into it in any other way - if I teach them in a different way they just don't concentrate as long!" - Mrs Barton

Updating our KS3 Publications

In 2008/9 we published our original Cams Hill Science Consortium Science Pathways via Badger Publishing. As well as having a very positive impact here at Cams Hill, our Key Stage 3 Science scheme is now available to all schools across the country. Following the Government's recent changes to the National Curriculum and assessment methods, last November we produced a second edition which now contains more resources to support target setting and assessment.



The CHSC Pathways approach will revitalize the professionalism of Science teachers" - Professor John Gilbert

"The teachers like the fact that the pupils are able to know, or easily find out, what level they are and what they need to do to make progress." KS3 Science Coordinator, Aldworth Science College, Basingstoke

"From our book sampling this new system shows that children give far more detailed responses to their targets than the previous system that we used." Head of Science, Fernhill School, Farnborough.

Our Science Consortium's current work

Building upon the successes of our two previous projects, the Cams Hill Science Consortium has received sponsorship to lead ten other secondary schools in another Triple Science project. Working in partnership, teachers are currently planning resources to support the new Science GCSE courses that will be implemented in September 2011. More details to follow in our next Update Leaflet.



Contact details

Should you be interested in further details of our Specialist Community work, or would like to find out more about our Cams Hill Science Consortium projects currently underway, please contact us:

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Cams Hill School

Specialist School Update

Winter 2010-11



At Cams Hill School we value all children as individuals with unique talents, skills and abilities. We are committed to supporting all children to do their best through academic, artistic and sporting achievements.

Between 2005-10 our Specialist Status has enabled us to develop facilities and resources to enhance teaching and learning across our whole curriculum and that of our partner schools. We are working towards becoming a centre of excellence in Science and Mathematics education. We are disseminating our best practice at regional and national level.



Computing for Community Groups

Computing for Community Groups is an opportunity for groups of residents from our local community to attend sessions on how to use a computer.



Our first Community Group to embark on this project has been members of the Wallington Women's Institute.

Aided by the friendly and relaxed atmosphere, members of the group have been able to make full use of the facilities in our Library. They have learned new skills, while working at their own pace. This new found knowledge and most importantly confidence has enabled them to use their computers more at home.

"It has motivated me to make a start understanding how to use computers. Using computers is something that I had put off for years!" - Mrs Bryan

"I feel very fortunate that I have had the chance to attend this IT course. Procedures which before were such a mystery have been unravelled." - Mrs Pearce

Family Learning at Wicor



Science was the focus for Wicor Primary School's "Family Learning Week".

The week began with an assembly involving a tour through the Universe using the Uniview software.

Then during the week pupils, along with their parents, were inspired by taking part in a variety of different Science activities in their year groups. Teacher feedback included:

*"What a great assembly, it really got the children buzzing"
"The Y4 activity really inspired the children."*

Science Ambassadors visit Harrison

The Year 10 Science Ambassadors: Zoe Avery, Lauren Burnett, Sarah Curtis, Sarah-Ann Ferguson, Rebecca Fox, Zara Millerchip, Hannah Sharpe, Naomi Watson and Jennifer Whitaker, visited Harrison Primary School to work with pupils in Year 5 as part of their Space topic.

The Ambassadors have been meeting each week since September to design an activity which contributed to the enrichment of Harrison Primary's new Creative Curriculum.



Working in partnership with Harrison's Year 5 Team, our Cams Hill Science Ambassadors were able to design a learning experience for Year 5 which developed Science, Maths and presentation skills while addressing the requirement for primary children to learn about financial management.



The afternoon began with a flight through the Universe using the Uniview software. The Ambassadors were actively involved all afternoon helping the younger children as they designed a rocket and planned a budget for the resources needed to equip the rocket for the journey. At the end of the afternoon the groups presented their ideas to the rest of their class.

*"It was great to see teaching from a different angle, to teach a class rather than to be a pupil is a good experience for me"
Rebecca Fox, Year 10*

"I enjoyed Year 10's company. It was good to build a relationship with these people who have more experience than you. They teach you because they are young people like yourselves, and can talk easily with them." - Sadie, Year 5

"It Takes Guts"-Science Show

Last term, we were very pleased to welcome back the popular Outreach Team from the Science Museum in London.

Year 10 BTEC groups and pupils from Year 9 took part in an hour long problem solving workshop called "Water Transporter". Teams of pupils were set the challenge of transporting a litre of water across a 2 metre gap, without carrying it.



All the teams had the same equipment at their disposal. Each group then tested their design, in a competition to see how much water could be transported.



In the evening, the Science Museum Outreach Team presented their "It Takes Guts" show. The show was very well received by the large assembled audience of all ages.

"I thought the Science show was really funny and it was even better than last year's and I learnt lots about the digestive system" - Amiee, Year 4, Wicor Primary School.

Using animations in Science

This year, we have used Specialist funding to invest in a new class set of graphics tablets for Science. Mr Doherty has been leading trials of using these with 'K-Sketch' software. This work is showing that pupil's scientific thinking and their explanations of abstract concepts can improve when they are challenged to produce their own animations in Science lessons.

In addition we have been able to share these resources with other schools. Last term, pupils at Northern Junior School were able to create their own animations when Mrs Braisher visited their ICT Club and led a session using the graphics tablets.



"It has got me thinking about using this ICT resources to give ICT a purpose and getting the children to think about a Science issue in the news" - Mrs O'Sullivan, ICT Technician, Northern Junior School