

# Belong School Gloucestershire Summer recap

## From the Headteacher

This has been a fantastic year for Belong and I am exceptionally proud that following a section 5 inspection in June we were judged to be good in all categories. Within the report there is lots of recognition of how supportive the staff are and how well the students behave in school. In addition, I was very pleased that the experiences we offer were recognised as being thoroughly beneficial to the students both academically and for their SEMH.

I will be very sad to say goodbye to our year 11 students who will be off to pastures new in September. I'm really pleased to note that they are off to do some exciting courses which will enable them to achieve their dreams.

For regular updates on what is happening at our school, please see our website [www.belonglearning.co.uk](http://www.belonglearning.co.uk), and our Facebook page and twitter feed (@belong\_glos).



Belong School Gloucestershire's Pupil Parliament has gone from strength to strength this year, with the addition of some new faces to the team. The students who make up the Parliament work hard to represent the views of their peers within the school on key issues, organise special events and maximise the positive impacts of the school within the local community through a variety of charity and outreach projects.



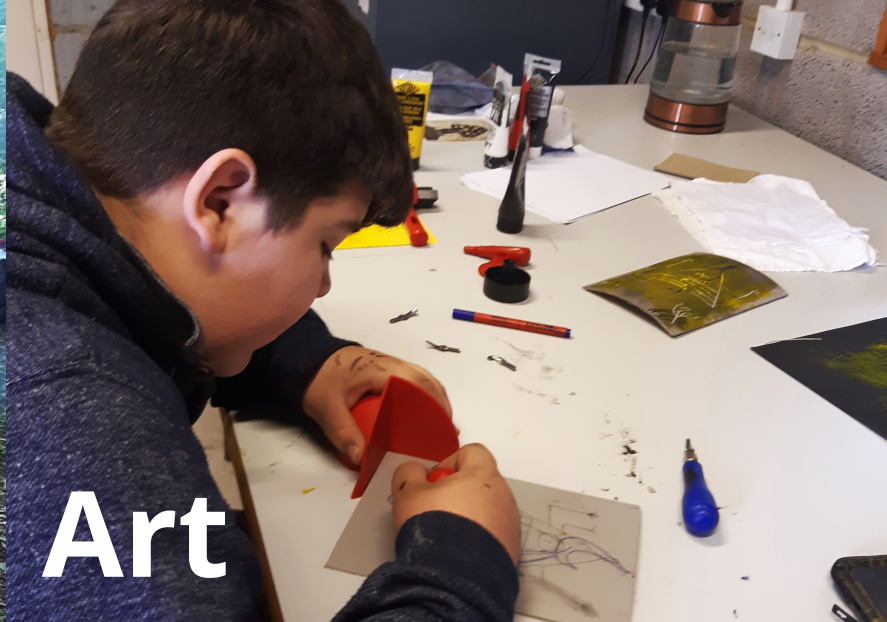
Most recently the Pupil Parliament organised the school's coronation celebrations. This involved decorating the school and organising an excellent day of British-themed activities. For the day, the hub was expertly transformed with Union flags and British Images, complete with bangers and mash for dinner. Students played darts, table-top football and took part in a really competitive quiz on the new British Monarch. Much fun was had by all and the success came down to the hard work of the Pupil Parliament.





# Forest School

Belong School Gloucestershire students have been working on a number of projects, including working to create an outdoor space for playing football. They measured out the space for the grass to be cut and made a goal post out of Hazel and rope, practicing lashing and learning about balancing as part of the process. We also completed our first landscape gardening project. Using skills from an AQA award we created a Chinese inspired miniature garden, involving selecting plants all originating from China whilst creating a rock feature that includes quartz and green stones, symbolising jade, a spiritual stone from the country. We have also recently branched out to working off-site at our local nature reserve. We created a temporary base camp and have had lessons there as well as learning about nature in our local area. Topics have included mushrooms, the nutrient cycle of trees and edible plants. Our new space offers a relaxing environment that students seem to flourish in.



# Art

This term the students have been working on a variety of projects, building on everything we have looked at so far this year. We have some year 11's that have been learning how to screen print and turn their street art stencils into t-shirt designs.

Our year 9's have been learning how to lino cut and created some hammerhead shark prints with Polynesian patterns. We have also been putting our photographs onto canvas and learning to stitch into them in the style of artist Victoria Vilsana. In addition to this and our success with the Arts Award we have been recognised as a **Champion Centre** by Trinity College. This means we are an ambassador for the award and will be helping to support and inspire other schools working to deliver Trinity College London's Arts Awards.



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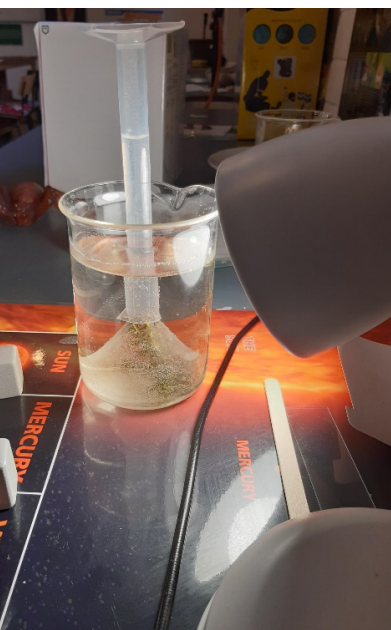


# Science

This term we have been very happy to welcome Katie Kelly, our new Lab Tech/Teacher to the Belong Gloucester Science department.



Katie immediately got stuck in and has created an incredible key stage 3 syllabus and re-organised the preparation room, which now looks immaculate.



The year 11's have been excelling themselves revising the syllabus in the remaining few weeks as they prepare for GCSE's. The year 11's have all worked exceptionally hard in their lessons and have shown laser focus. We are all very hopeful that they will achieve their target grades.

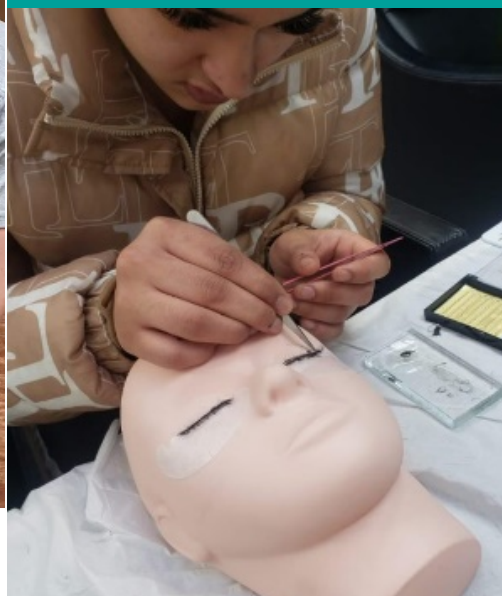
Our Year 10 students have been learning in a variety of different ways including creating molecules from clay and plenty of practical experiments.

This term in Post-16 Preparation, Belong School Gloucestershire students have been looking at Green Careers.

Focusing on Green Careers has given us the opportunity to share ideas and raise aspirations for employment working in the environmental sector, which continues to be an area of significant growth.



## Post-16 Preparation



Currently, students are engaging in a number of different vocational courses, including hair and beauty, metalwork and blacksmithing, construction and dog grooming.

At the recent Birmingham Festival of Apprenticeships our Year 9 and 10 students took the opportunity to engage with a huge range of employers and discover the wide variety of career paths available.

We are always on the lookout for businesses and workplaces that are in a position to offer regular or one-off work experience opportunities – if you or a friend or family member are in a position to help out, please get in touch, we will be very pleased to hear from you.





# Reading

In January we kickstarted our new reading program at Belong Gloucester, opening our new library area for students to choose their daily reading books. Students read every day for the first 20 minutes of their day, with staff completing a reading log of their progress. Students have responded positively to reading at the start of each day and we have several success stories. One student requested to bring his own book in to read as he didn't have time to read it at home. Another student started the year with the claim they had never read a book from start to finish before and is currently on his fifth book this year!

Moving forwards, we are kickstarting the reading program in September with a wider variety of reading options, including articles, blogs and magazines alongside our ever-growing book collection.



## Ofsted Quotes

"Many pupils have not had the best start to their education before joining the school. At Belong, they get another chance. Most embrace this fresh opportunity, thriving in the process."

"The school is a calm place in which to learn. Well-established morning routines in 'the hub' encourage pupils to get off to a positive start to the day. Pupils say that they feel safe, including from bullying. Leaders seek creative ways to engage pupils in new experiences based on their talents and interests. These range from blacksmithing courses to landscaping and skiing trips abroad."

Leaders and staff build warm and trusting relationships with pupils. This is the linchpin of the school's success. Staff invest time to get to know pupils' individual needs. They plan a highly personalised curriculum that is relevant to pupils' education, health and care (EHC) plans. Over time, this contributes to better attendance and engagement in learning."

Pupils particularly enjoy the boxing programme. It successfully develops their physical and mental well-being, confidence and positive decision making."

*Ofsted, June 2023*

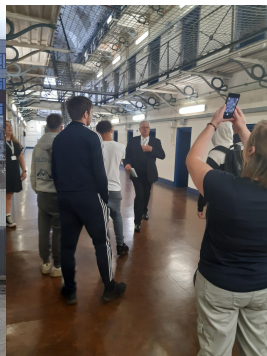


You can find our full Ofsted report on our website at [www.belonglearning.co.uk/gloucestershire](http://www.belonglearning.co.uk/gloucestershire)



## Recent Events

Students recently took part in a visit to Gloucester Prison. Opened in 1791 and active until 2013, the building has a wealth of history our students found fascinating.



As part of a special guided tour, students found out about the history of the building including how conditions changed for inmates during the 200 years the prison was active.



Maria continues to create amazing meals for our lunches. Equipped with a new mixer, she has been developing a delicious pear cake, which is gluten free to ensure that everyone can enjoy it. Our half-term menu is available on our website.

