



Belong School Devon Autumn recap 2025

From the Headteacher

Welcome to our Autumn recap newsletter, providing an insight into some of Belong School Devon's activities over the last term.

As we near the conclusion of the term and the year 2025, Belong School Devon is actively preparing for 2026. We have commenced organizing our Ten Tors challenge, aiming to build on the significant success achieved by last year's team. Additionally, we are gearing up for our Bude residential trip, which proved to be a tremendous success last year, offering students a huge range of thrilling, adventurous, and educational experiences. For more details about this and other upcoming events, please check out our Meta (Facebook) page and visit www.belonglearning.co.uk/devon.

Trauma Informed Schools & Organisations Awards **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Pathways Learning Centre
Christchurch County Primary
Ysgol Rhosybol
Belong School Devon
Woodbridge SEND Service

Trinity Academy Newcastle
Multi Academy Trust
Plas Derwen
Ysgol Gynradd Aberaeron
Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni

We are extremely proud of our school achieving the Trauma and Mental Health Informed School Award. Our thanks to Trauma Informed Schools & Communities UK for their recognition and support. Award Schools and Organisations have to demonstrate exceptional levels of Trauma Informed Practice embedded across all areas of their setting. You can find out more at:

<https://www.traumainformedschools.co.uk/awards>



Science

This term, students from across our year groups have studied a range of key science areas examining the world around us.

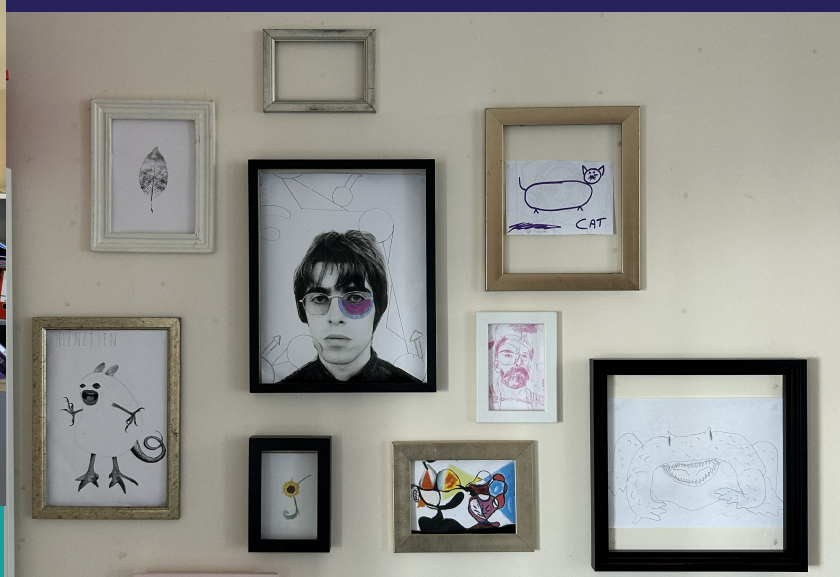
KS3 students have been exploring the fundamental forces of the universe - atoms, elements, and chemical reactions. The interaction of various substances is always a highlight for learners, sparking their curiosity.



Elsewhere, students pursuing the Double Award are immersing themselves in the wonders of the human body, exploring cell biology, understanding infection and response, and delving into photosynthesis and respiration.



As part of the Contemporary Portraits topic, students have been using a range of techniques to capture personality, emotion and style.



This term, some of our students have been working on their monsters project, inspired by the work of Chris Ryniak. Developing skills in adding texture, shade and 3D modelling, they will be working on bringing their creations to life.



The Autumn Term in Media Studies has seen us delving into the worlds of media analysis alongside 2D and 3D animation. Students have been creating their own short animation clips using a variety of techniques.



Alongside more traditional Wallace and Gromit-style 3D stop motion, students have also been using sophisticated animation programmes to create virtual models which can then be made to move digitally.



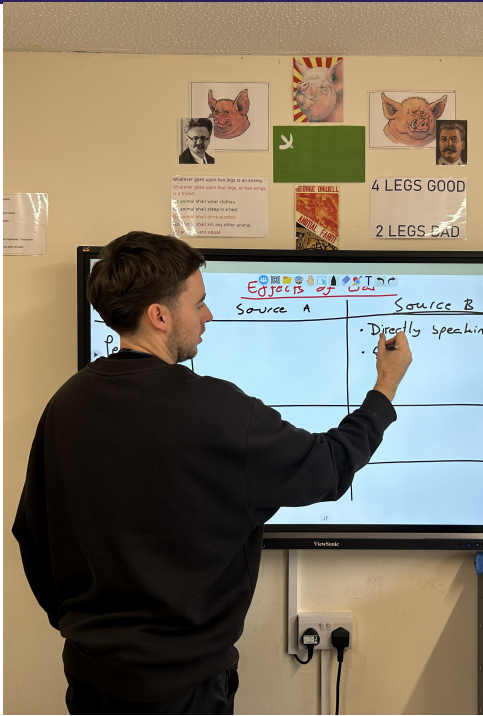
Spanish

For students embarking on their exciting adventure with the beautiful Spanish language, we have explored the alphabet, numbers, and greetings. Meanwhile, KS4 learners have delved into the intricacies of the language, mastering past, present, and future tenses. We've also immersed ourselves in the rich cultural traditions of Spain, discovering vibrant places like Madrid, Barcelona, and Mallorca.



English

This term has been dedicated to enhancing skills across the board. Our KS4 students have been getting to grips with Paper 1, delving into reading comprehension and language analysis and uncovering the essence of different texts. KS3 students have explored various skills, such as handwriting and reading, drawing inspiration from Plymouth's National Marine Aquarium to craft engaging factfiles as they focus on non-fiction.





This term in PSHE, students will take part in the Jigsaw programme's first unit, "Being Me in My World," which encourages Students to reflect on their identity, their role in the school community and the wider world.

Students have been learning about personal identity, feeling safe and respected, rights and responsibilities, contributing positively to their community, setting goals, and valuing diversity. This unit builds self-awareness, empathy and a sense of belonging, laying the foundation for respectful relationships and responsible citizenship.

As part of Learning Outside the Classroom at Shallowford Farm, students took care of the farm's pigs by cleaning their spaces, renewing their bedding, and gaining hands-on experience in animal care. In addition to the skills developed, these tasks also enhance wellbeing, foster social skills, and build resilience, all of which are emphasized in the UK national curriculum and secondary school guidelines. For many students with SEMH needs, such experiences boost their confidence, enhance attendance, and help to build their sense of belonging in school.



Key Dates

7th January

First day of Spring term

7th - 23rd January

IEP reviews

12th - 23rd February

Year 11 / 12 mock exams

16th-20th February

Spring half term

2nd April

Last day of the Spring Term

21st April

First day of Summer term

4th May

Bank Holiday - School closed

5th May

Yr11 / 12 Study Leave begins

25th-29th May

Half term holiday - one week

25th - 26th June

Leavers' activity week

26th June

Leavers' Last Day

22nd July

Last day of the Summer Term

You can find out more about Belong School Devon, the lessons and activities taking place at our school and the Belong Learning organisation by visiting our website: www.belonglearning.co.uk/devon and following our Meta (Facebook) page: www.facebook.com/belongschooldevon