Blackfriars Newcastle Reception:
01782 987150

Blackfriars Bulletin

Shaw Education Trust

Volume 5 Issue 10

Thank you

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for their support last week. It was hugely reassuring to know that you understood our need to close the school on Friday to undertake the deep clean and to keep your child off if they had flu-like symptoms. Yesterday, the team were in school again to immunise the remaining students who had not received the flu vaccine first time around and all of the staff had the opportunity to also be vaccinated by our kind friend, Victoria, the Pharmacist from Morrisons. We are hoping to have a snow and flu free remainder of spring term!

Scholar of the week:

Killian in Dudson for the brilliant progress that he is making in rebound therapy, picking up some new dance moves in the morning warm up and even venturing down the steps of the pool. Well done Killian, great work.

Our brilliant cook Jane pulled out all the stops to help us celebrate St Valentine's Day on the 14th – just look at her wonderful creations…

Safeguarding Contact Information

Staffordshire
First Response : 0800 1313 126 Outside office hours: 0845 6042886
Stoke-on-Trent
Advice and Referral Team: 01782 235100 Outside office hours: 01782 234234
Cheshire East
Referral Team : 0300 123 5012 Option 2 Outside office hours:
Shropshire
Referral Team: 01743 254 259 Initial Contact Team: 0345 678 9021 Outside office hours:

Adult Safeguarding referral numbers

Staffordshire: First Response – 0845 604 2719

Stoke on Trent: Adult Social Care – 0800 561 0015

Blackfriarsacademy.org.uk

Get into Teaching through Blackfriars Academy

Get in touch today

Blackfriarsta.com

Are you up to date?

Please let us know if we need to update your contact details. We need to have 2 sets of emergency details .

IMPORTANT

Please can parents ring up and give us a password if someone other than the usual person is picking up their child please?

Robot building Update

Our robot building has been continuing this half-term. Our engineers have attached more motors and have now created two extendable arms, one for lifting cubes and spheres from the floor and the other to be able to latch our robot onto the lander and pull it up. Under George's technical expertise, the motors were ably programmed and tested. We had to make a few adjustments as the front arm kept sticking at a certain point and wouldn't return to its starting position.

Our team was due to attend the local scrimmage at Burslem College, but unfortunately, due to the closure of the school through bad weather, we were unable to attend. Our mentor went along to get some ideas and to see how different teams had progressed with their builds. This was really useful, as he brought back photos of different ideas for a chain-driven wheel system. Many of the teams had struggled to get their robots in and out of the craters, so we may need to look at our wheels and use this chain system instead.

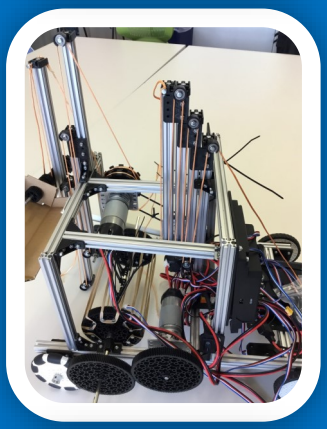
We have had to make the sad decision to stop progress on Jimmy United's robot, which was further behind in the building and programming stages, as we don't have enough funds to be able to complete both robots. Although the kits we were given contain extra motors, we need a second special expansion hub to connect them, which costs $300, as well as needing other parts which would have to be ordered from America.

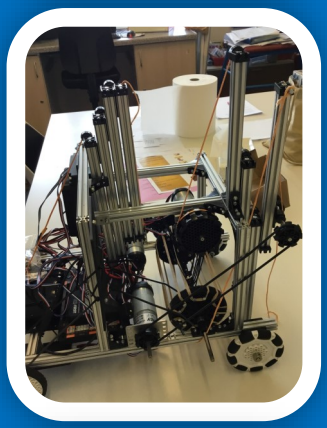
We wish to say a big thank you for Jimmy United's efforts and I am hoping that the experience from this year's work will mean that we may be able to build an even better robot next year with their help.

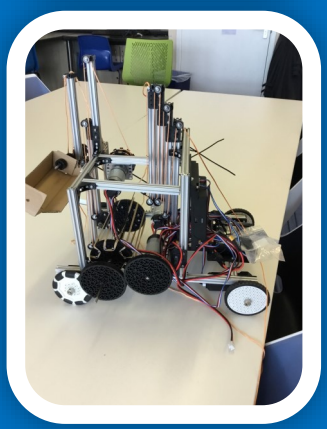
Our lesson time for robot building and coding has also come to an end this week, but our enthusiastic engineers are still coming to lunchtime sessions to continue the good work. Team Techno Josh will continue, with any students from Jimmy United who are prepared to assist at lunchtimes.

Techno Josh have been busy creating videos to show our progress and music to go with the videos, taking photographs and film and will be creating a display for school and a mascot and flag that we can take with us to the next competition in Manchester, on 15th March.

The next steps are to test our robot at one of the practice fields and a small group will be heading to Newfriars to do this after half-term. After that it is back to square one with our wheels, to try out the chain-driven system and George will have more sensors to program, as well as programming a completely autonomous period for the robot, as it has to navigate the terrain and lay down our flag without being driven. Lots more challenges to come!







Upcoming Events

Half term – Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February

Year 5 Open Day 4th March

Friday 29 March – INSET school closed to pupils

Half term – Monday 15 April to Friday 26 April