

Slugs, snails and snake tails!

Our Key Stage 3 boys thoroughly enjoyed a visit of creepy crawlies and slitherers this half term.

As part of their Science programme on Classification the pupils learnt about vertebrates and invertebrates. This was a 'hands on' session with a variety of exotic species provided by Zoolab. Among the highlights were an African beetle called Bernard and a friendly snake called Sid! Our Key Stage 4 students will be taking their first Science GCSE modular exams this half-term which will add to their final grade in the Summer.



Eamont Unit's holiday to Winmarleigh Hall

During the October half term four boys had the opportunity to get a few days away from Eden Grove and went on a PGL Adventure Holiday to Lancashire.

After a few anxious hours in the morning with some getting cold feet everyone set off with positive frames of mind. The boys carried out some pretty tough hair-raising challenges with activities including zipwire, quad biking, shelter building and high rope activities, whilst encouraging each other brilliantly, showing great maturity.



Croft House raise money for Pudsey!

Croft House students have held their first fundraising event for the winter term.

The sale of some of the enterprise projects combined with a coffee morning, raised £157.70. This amount is to be donated to Children in Need.

New items for sale this year have been bird feeders and CD racks as well as our popular items from last year. We are also trying to involve the local community and hope to offer a Christmas card delivery service within the village.

Shoe Box Appeal

Pupils and staff from Eden Grove are providing Christmas Presents for children in Romanian Orphanages.

We're delighted to have beaten last year's record and have sent forty one shoe boxes filled with gifts.

More information

Eden Grove is a specialist residential school for 65 boys aged eight to nineteen with behavioural, emotional and social difficulties (BESD) and moderate learning difficulties. Some boys have also been diagnosed as having an autistic spectrum disorder. Placements are for up to 52 weeks a year, depending on individual pupil need. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact us:

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Shakespeare 4 Kidz

On Tuesday 21st October Eden Grove held a drama workshop for all of the Key Stage 3 boys and three of our Key Stage 4 classes.

In studying Shakespeare, we cover set texts in individual classes but we also have a whole school focus on one play each year. Last year we chose 'The Tempest', which helped those boys takings SATS. This year we chose to focus on 'Macbeth' and some of the boy studied this play in the summer term with others working on it this term.



The workshop lasted one and a half hours, giving all of the boys who wanted to act, a chance to do so. Some simple props were used with 'Lady Macbeth' looking fetching in a black veil and the drunken Porter swigging from her tankard as she staggered across the hall. The boys supported each other and entertained the staff.

Priory Eden Grove School Spring Term 2009

Newsletter Issue One

Eden Grove celebrates 100% of exam entries gaining AT LEAST a pass grade

Past experiences of school have not been positive for our young people before they came to Eden Grove and often resulted in non-attendance.

Small class sizes and high levels of adult support means that a child attending Eden Grove quickly becomes confident and happy to attend school without the fear of failure that they have often experienced. Attendance in itself for some of our young people is a major achievement.

The school follows the National Curriculum and offers all the subjects that young people would be expected to study in a mainstream school. Eden Grove offers a broad and balanced curriculum tailored to meet

individual need. We offer GCSE courses in English, Maths, CDT and Science, as well as short GCSE courses in History, PE and Geography.



This year all of our students who were entered for GCSE's received



passes in every subject. One student achieved all C grades of which we are exceptionally proud.

We also offer AQA Entry Level Certificates of which our results this year were also exceptionally good with most students achieving level 3 or level 2 in all subjects (level 3 being the highest).

In addition to this some students also completed the ASDAN Youth Award Scheme a Gold Award is the equivalent of a GCSE B grade and this year one of our pupil's was successful in achieving this level.

Other boys who completed the scheme received Silver and Bronze Awards.

Spotlight on land based studies

An interesting and motivating programme of vocational activities was set up last year for our Key Stage 4 Pupils. This has proved very popular with our boys and it continues into its second year.

On Tuesday mornings a land based studies course has been established with Mr Tim Wells based at Great Musgrove and supported by school staff.

Boys are instructed in various aspects of country life including working with sheep which involves clipping, dosing, tagging, lambing and preparing the sheep for market. They have also been working with milk and beef cows, poultry and pig farming. They learn about land management and how to respect the countryside.

Evidence is collated and the boys contribute to a personal portfolio during class time back at school. This can then be used for accreditation and evidence for future employment.

This term one of the projects in land based studies has been to erect a bench on the banks of the River Eden at Great Musgrove. All of the materials used were supplied by the local parish council with our pupils commissioned to carry out the work.

The Year 11 boys who took part in the project have worked exceptionally hard from start to finish and are very proud of what they have achieved (see picture right).



Also in this issue:

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- Holiday to Winmarleigh Hall
- Eden Grove shoe box appeal
- Supporting Children in Need

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Eden Grove pupils benefit from the on-going development of therapeutic services

Pupils are referred to the learning support team at Eden Grove School via a written form; we accept self referral as well as those from staff. There are two part time school counsellors, and we average 8 to 10 sessions per week with individual pupils.

We are currently working on a pilot scheme combining the baseline assessment undertaken by the school SENCO together with therapeutic assessments such as Child Attachment Interview, Story Stems Narrative Assessment and MIMS (Theraplay) in order to inform the planning for each pupil. In addition to individual work, therapists take part in multi-disciplinary meetings such as the weekly Team around the Child, where education, care and therapy staff share knowledge and views on the young person, with the intention of promoting the 24 hour curriculum. Our focus for the near future is working multiprofessionally across campus, disseminating new thinking on developmental trauma and executive functioning skills with care and education staff.

Eden Grove goes Ape!

Eden Grove pupils went Ape last week, but don't worry this isn't as bad as it sounds!

Our Top Twelve Trip this half term was to Go Ape. Pupils who had achieved the most points during the school day over the half term were rewarded with a trip to the exciting activity in Whinlatter Forest where they got to climb the trees, slide across high wires, crawl through tunnels, cross rope bridges, swing through the trees like Tarzan and generally act like monkeys!!



NSPCC agreement

After a number of years of discussions, a unique partnership agreement and contract with the NSPCC is being finalised to establish an Independent Visitors Service (IVS). This will truly afford our young people an independent voice that can advocate on their behalf and ensure that the care and welfare we offer safeguards their interests and wellbeing.

NSPCC 
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.



Eden Grove Boys Achieve John Muir Trust Award

Wildland, wildlife, education and adventure. This is how the John Muir Trust describe their award.

This summer saw the beginning of hopefully a long lasting relationship between us and Frontier Education when they helped us to develop once again our Summer Camp and achieve recognised awards for our Young People. This is what our Head of Education had to say about the adventure.

"During the monsoons of summer three groups, each of about five pupils and two staff joined me and two instructors in Pooley Bridge to camp on the banks of Ullswater. The boys spent four nights in individual tents placed around a huge yurt and a cook's tent. Each day, after a hearty cooked breakfast, a quick tidy up and making our own packed lunches, the instructors took us out on activities.

These included a huge fell walk, a gill scramble (very scary after the rain), climbing and abseiling and finally canoeing, which somehow always ended up as swimming. Hot showers and hot drinks were quickly taken before a classroom session and dinner. The classroom sessions helped the boys achieve their John Muir Trust awards and used the day's activities to raise awareness of ecology, preservation and local history.

After chilling out around a campfire, supper was served and the boys went to sleep ready for the next day's adventures. Despite the weather, we all learned a lot, not least about each other and ourselves.

Can't wait for next year!"

Eden Grove students receive praise from Cumbria Army Cadet Force

Army Cadet Forces in school has been a recent topical debate. The Schools Minister Lord Adonis has recently quoted in a speech at a Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference that "Cadets can be a real force for good in our schools".

Eden Grove has run its own Cadet Detachment for approximately 20 years and is currently run by Sergeant Johns from Cumbria Army Cadets. Our pupils get the opportunity to attend three cadet camps throughout the country where they can study for various ranks within the cadet force. Three of our boys this year were awarded an NVQ in Public Services which is a major

achievement for not only them but for the detachment. Two of our cadets this year participated in Cumbria ACF County Shooting Team Selection, which was held in February at a local Army training camp and on Battle Hill Ranges near County Durham.



A letter received by the school from Cumbria Army Cadet Force Headquarters reads: "The two above named cadets participated in the Cumbria ACF Shooting team. These two young men are an inspiration and a credit to your school. They have participated in a subject which in today's society has very bad publicity but over

the weekend they have participated with some of the most senior and best cadets in the country and gained some high scores. Discipline on the range has to be very strict due to the safety aspect but these cadets took it in their stride. Their determination to try something new where they have not had the opportunity like some of the other cadets was commendable. The more I work with these two cadets the more impressed I am with their attitude to work and discipline. The achievements they make never ceases to amaze me. I am also pleased to see Eden Grove detachment is making its mark for achievements within the Army Cadet Forces".

Cumbria Partnership 
NHS Foundation Trust

2009 Service Level Agreement with CAMHS renewed

The Principal met recently with the manager of the local Child & Adolescent Mental Health Team, the Head of the Clinical Psychological services and newly appointed Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist to re-affirm the current service level agreement for 2009.

This quite unique partnership established last year allows the school to 'fast-track' referrals and to access all of the specialist clinical and therapeutic services offered by our local 'Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust'. Significantly this ensures that our young peoples' health care needs, are well supported by our own school based nurses and therapists. This allows direct involvement, assessment, individual therapy, clinical consultation, advice and support, as well as training and development of our staff.

Eden Grove Head of Care working with Safeguarding Children Board for Cumbria

Recent events surrounding the protection of children, or lack of, have figured largely in the press and on television. Whether it could happen here in Cumbria is a question answered by Martin Price, Head of Care at Eden Grove School.

Cumbria's Children Trust and the Safeguarding Board and Children's Services Departments are proactive groups with many dedicated people working towards high quality services and protection for children and young people across our region. For me it is reassuring to see that work in and around Cumbria to safeguard children has such a high priority and is now embracing all bodies that work with children and young people. In the past independent schools have been on the periphery of local planning and policy creation.

That has now changed and I am pleased to have been asked to be a representative on the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) working group looking at the management of allegations made by children. This is a multidisciplinary group made up of representatives from the police, the safeguarding board, all areas of social care, health and education and now from me, representing the whole independent school network across Cumbria. Similarly I am part of the independent schools development forum bringing together the many schools across the county in developing those partnerships with the local authority which strengthen safeguarding children structures, procedures and processes.