

April 2025



# Shortenills

It has been a very busy term here at Shortenills.

Before the February half-term, many staff and students joined us to watch *Wicked* at the Apollo Theatre, which was an incredible experience. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive, and it was a pleasure to share this experience with them. A special thank you to Mr Carter for the original idea and to Mrs Gregory and Mrs Rutley for being instrumental in making this happen.



There has also been a lot of mouth-watering cooking taking place on-site this term, as Year 10 and 11 work towards their Level 1 and Level 2 Home Cooking BTECs. We have been treated to apple crumble, chocolate brownies and a delicious banoffee pie. The students have approached this in a mature and responsible way.

Teaching changes over the summer term:

Oak Class:

- Mr Castle will be teaching Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Mrs Hardyman will be teaching Thursday and Friday.

Willow Class:

- Mrs Mote will continue teaching Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Mrs Griffiths will be teaching on Friday.

We are also saying goodbye this term to Miss Patrick. We are sorry to see her go and wish her well for the future.

Next term looks set to be another busy one, as we start exam season with the Year 11s. We have already had a lot of success with students achieving Level 1 and Level 2 Functional Skills in Maths and English.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Scarbo, a pet therapy dog, after Easter. Scarbo will be visiting us on Thursdays, and consent letters will be coming out shortly regarding this.

We wish you all a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday 22 April 2025.

**Mrs Wolfenden**  
**Head of School**



# Beech Class

As we wrap up another exciting term in Beech Class, we are excited to share some of the wonderful activities and achievements our students have accomplished over the past weeks.

This term, our students have worked diligently on their English Functional Skills and Maths, demonstrating impressive growth and understanding. Their hard work is truly commendable and we are so proud of their progress!

In addition to their academic subjects, Beech Class has embraced the great outdoors with a series of Bushcraft projects. The students had a great time helping to construct a deadwood fence in the woods, where they learned valuable teamwork and practical skills. They also enjoyed making fires and building shelters, fostering a sense of adventure and connection with nature.

With the weather improving, we are excited to announce that more gardening projects are on the horizon! The students will have the opportunity to get their hands dirty and learn about planting and caring for our green spaces around the site.

A highlight of this term was some of our students visiting a local car showroom, where they explored various vehicles and learned about the automotive industry. The pupils involved thoroughly enjoyed the visit and being allowed to sit in the very expensive cars!

Creativity flourished in Beech Class this term, with fabulous art projects and cooking sessions. A special mention would be our BTEC cooking assessment, where students showcased their culinary skills by preparing a delicious Spaghetti Bolognese. Their hard work in the kitchen truly paid off.



As we approach the Easter break, we wish everyone a relaxing and happy holiday. Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to more exciting adventures next term!

**Mrs Gentle - Class Teacher**  
**Mr Carter - Teaching Assistant**  
**Mrs Marris - Teaching Assistant**





# Oak Class

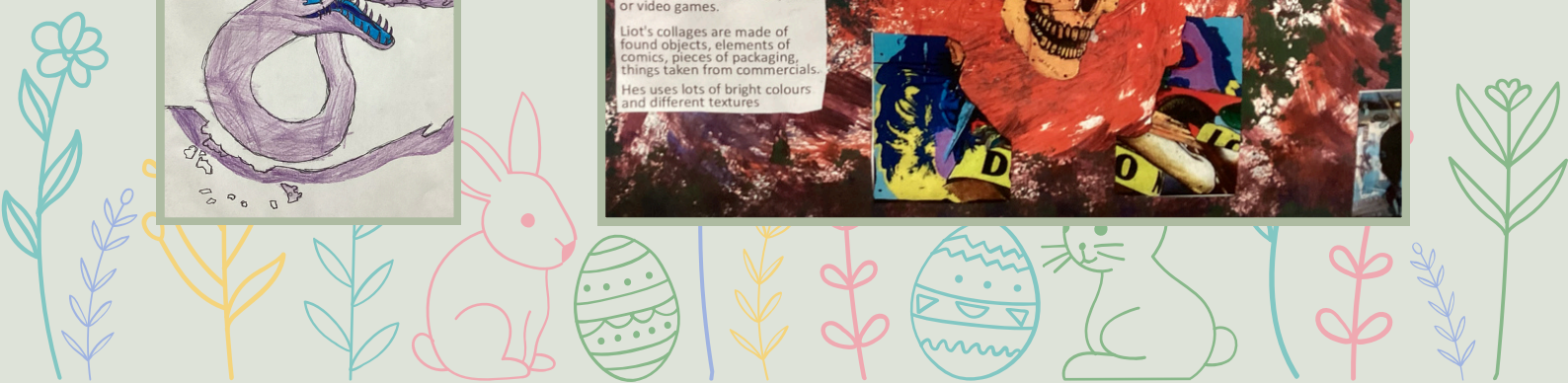
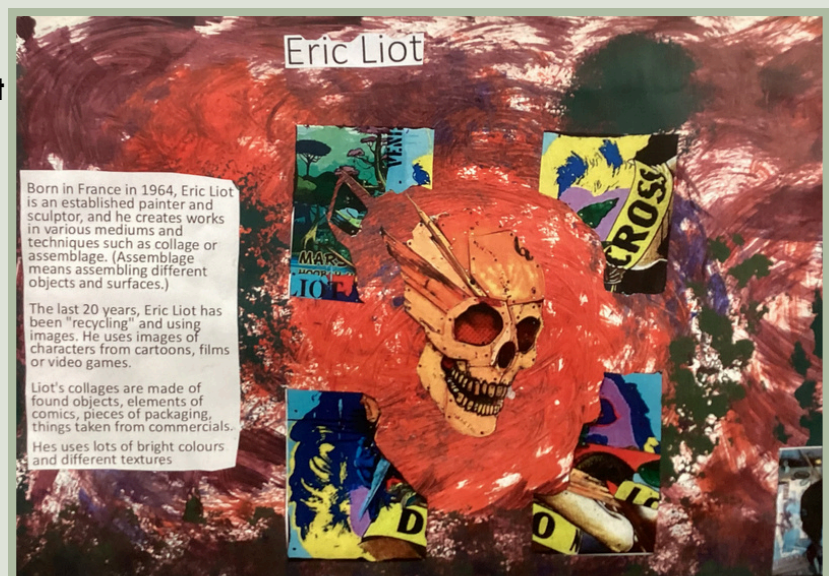
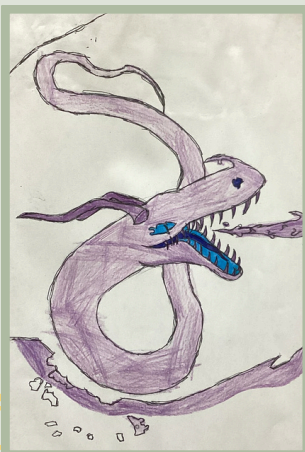
In Oak class, we have recently enjoyed a family and friends day, where we were excited to be able to offer visitors homemade cookies - which went down a treat!

With the improved weather, we have been making the most of the sunshine, spending time making a wildlife pond and some natural fencing for our bushcraft area.



In Art, we have been focusing on obsessions and phobias, and we have also enjoyed reading a story about the Dunkirk evacuation in WWII, from the point of view of one of the rescuers.

**Mr Castle - Class Teacher**  
**Mrs Hurst - Teaching Assistant**





# Maple Class

What a busy term it has been in Maple Class, as we near our students' final weeks at Shortenills! They have achieved so much, and we are so proud of them and everything they have achieved.

Firstly, all of our students in Maple have completed their final cook for their Level 2 BTEC in Home Cooking. This took place in a professional kitchen, adhering to strict health and safety guidelines, and all students approached this with incredible professionalism, remaining calm and organised throughout to produce some absolutely incredible and delicious food. Well done to everybody involved.



On top of this, students have been working incredibly hard to complete their Level 2 Awards and Certificates in PSHE. Their attitude to learning has been excellent and they can be justly proud of their achievements. They are now working towards completion of the equivalent award in Applied Science.

Maple students have also been enjoying success in their Functional Skills exams in Maths and English, and these exams are all now complete. Next up are the GCSEs in the summer term, in which we wish them the best of luck as they make their final preparations.

Finally, it has been great to see our students develop their skills in Art, as part of their preparation towards their GCSE final piece. Mrs Gee has worked wonders in helping pupils decide what fantastic creations they will make for their final pieces. They are very lucky to have such an inspiring Art teacher!

Outside of the classroom, we are busy planning our Year 11 Leavers' Trip, which is coming up all too soon for the Maple staff, who will miss the students terribly after we wave them off into their bright futures.

**Miss Discoll - Class Teacher**  
**Mrs Asbridge - Teaching Assistant**  
**Mr Miles - Teaching Assistant**





# Willow Class

It has been a fantastic term in Willow Class, with lots of exciting progress and changes to celebrate! Time seems to have passed very quickly, and I can't quite believe we are at the end of another term.

One of the biggest achievements this term has been in Maths. We have been working hard and making great strides in our learning. The students have shown fantastic determination, tackling new challenges with confidence and enthusiasm. I am especially proud of how they are applying their skills in problem solving activities. Well done, everyone!

Beyond the classroom, Willow class enjoyed a wonderful morning at Paccar, where we met with some of the students from Shortenills Abbey, to take part in rock climbing and archery. I was very impressed with the student's resilience and perseverance, especially with the rock climbing, where many of them were able to reach the top of the tower. This was also a wonderful opportunity to see bonds grow and students supporting and encouraging each other.

We also have some changes to our class family. Earlier this month, we said a fond farewell to one of our students who has been a fantastic part of Willow Class. We will all miss them but wish them the very best in their new adventure. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome a new face to our class. They have settled in brilliantly and we are so happy to have them join our class.

As we prepare for the final term of the year, the hope of warmer weather is on our minds. Please may I take this opportunity to remind students to bring sun cream and a sun hat on the hotter summer days, so that we can make the most of being outside?

I look forward to welcoming students back on 22 April 2025 and wish all of our families a restful break and a very Happy Easter!

**Mrs Mote - Class Teacher**  
**Miss Weaver - Teaching Assistant**





# KS2 Forest School

We are also very excited to announce that Aspire will be opening the KS2 Forest School provision after Easter, which will be based at Shortenills. This provision will be separate from Shortenills, and the Forest School has been designed for KS2 students to be self-contained within a designated area in the school woods.

Mrs Smith and Mrs Marsh, both experienced Forest School leads, will be delivering this provision, supported by Mr Castle and Mrs Hollies.

Forest School includes a yurt, a fire pit and plenty of outdoor space and will be an enriching environment for the students. We can't wait to hear about all the wonderful things that will be happening!



## Dates for your diary:

**End of Spring term: Friday 4 April 2025**

**Bank Holidays: Friday 18 April 2025 & Monday 21 April 2025**

**Start of Summer term: Tuesday 22 April 2025**

**Bank Holidays: Monday 5 May 2025 & Monday 26 May 2025**

**Half term: Tuesday 27 May 2025 - Friday 30 May 2025**

**Inset Day: Monday 2 June 2025**

**Family and Friends Day: Wednesday 9 July 2025**

**End of Summer Term: Friday 18 July 2025**

Follow us on 



**Aspire Schools**

Shortenills Nightingales Lane Chalfont St Giles Buckinghamshire HP8 4SG

0203 356 7144

[shortenillsoffice@aspireap.org.uk](mailto:shortenillsoffice@aspireap.org.uk)

[www.aspireap.org.uk](http://www.aspireap.org.uk)



**Aspire**