

Cardinal Allen Catholic High School - Summer School 2021

The summer school took place from Monday 23 August to Friday 27 August, 9.30 am to 2 pm.

All 165 new Year 7 pupils for September 2021 were invited to take part. Approximately 100 pupils took part each day, of which there were 16 SEN, 20 PP and 1 CLA pupils.

The pupils were split into 4 groups and stayed with the same group for the week. Each lesson had 2 teachers to keep the pupil to teacher ratio low. There were 2 TAs supporting each day.

Pupils were provided with a packed lunch each day.

Each day the pupils had 1 hour of English, 1 hour of Maths, 1 hour of physical activity and 1 hour of art / drama / Catholic Life of the school / MFL / team building.

English

The purpose of the English activities was to engage students with gothic horror literary heritage, in preparation for September. Students read extracts from classics (Dracula and Frankenstein) as a precursor to their own creative writing. They experienced the moving image and created their own graphic novel extract on a monster of their making. They created blackout poetry and used this to write their own bat poems. They were also set independent reading tasks at home, using books purchased for them.

Maths

Pupils covered a range of topics and activities over the 5 days. The sessions were interactive and used mini whiteboards ensuring everyone's participation and boosting confidence. They also took part in number investigations in pairs and small groups developing teamwork skills. Topics included:

- decoding Maths Jokes using the coordinate grid
- the wonders of 'Golden Ratio' and 'Fibonacci Sequence' (sequences)
- practical shape challenges (cubes, clickys)
- calculator skills (how old would you be if you were 1 billion seconds old)
- tarzia puzzles (area and perimeter, and bidmas)
- origami, shapes and team work (building an icosahedrons in teams)

Physical Activity

We delivered a number of team sport-based activities to encourage social engagement with an emphasis on fun. This was a great way for the students who were unfamiliar with each other to interact and make friends, which we feel worked brilliantly. When talking to the pupils they had exchanged phone numbers and started to build friendships with some of them having planned to meet at the beach on Saturday!!! It was great to see and hear.

Art

Students took part in an arts and craft activity, learning about the doodle artist Jon Burgerman. Students created their own, personalised keyrings.

Drama

In Drama pupil did a series of activities focusing on social skills - in particular, communication, cooperation, commitment, confidence, and concentration. They then went on to implement these skills in a series of short improvisations.

Catholic Life

The pupils enjoyed a reflective session on why the Cross is such a special symbol for Christians. It was a great way to introduce them to aspects of the Catholic Life of our community here at Cardinal Allen. This helped reassure pupils about starting at a faith school. Since they joined us they have been happy to engage respectfully during Collective Worship.

MFL

In our Spanish session, pupils learned how to ask and respond to the following questions:

- What is your name?
- How old are you?
- Where do you live?
- We then practiced this by doing a survey with other members of the class and found out some information about them.

Team Building

As an enrichment activity, the children were asked to engage in a number of team building tasks (based on the CCF command task model), requiring that they work with one another, communicate effectively and think their way around problems.

- Noah's Ark prompted skills of patience and team building;
- Tower Challenge - logic and engineering skills;
- Sheep and Shepherd and Minefield - communication and leadership;
- Danger Circle - logic, teamwork, planning and communication skills.

The children had no choice but to cooperate with others and get involved. They were further given the chance to reflect on their successes and failures as a means for personal growth.

Feedback

Feedback from staff, pupils and parents was overwhelmingly positive. The summer school provided a relaxed but structured approach to enable the pupils to transition from primary to secondary school. Pupils were also able to engage with the core subjects of Maths and English before returning to school in September.

Costs

Staffing (Admin/teaching/support/cleaning)	£11,510.84
Catering	£627.33
Cleaning / COVID supplies	£100
Teaching resources	£4,147.46
Total	£16,385.63