

# EXCELLENCE PATHWAY NEWSLETTER



## SUMMER TERM TWO

The Excellence pathway aims to continue to challenge, stretch, and support these pupils to achieve their full potential. Through targeted enrichment activities, high-quality teaching, and opportunities for deeper learning, students are encouraged to develop independence, resilience, and a love of learning. We look forward to sharing updates on events and progress as the programme develops.

This newsletter features all past and upcoming events for our pathway students, along with success stories and a celebration of different achievements.



## PATHWAY REFLECTIONS

Congratulations to the following pathway students for achieving their Bronze badges this half term:

Marcel  
Tillie  
Elliot  
Hans  
Imogen  
Seb



Well done to all students who have been reflecting on their extra-curricular activities this half term!

## EXTERNAL SPEAKER

Last half term, we were lucky enough to have a parent speaker come and talk to our Pathway students about their career journey into becoming a pilot.

The students were fascinated by the experiences shared and gained a valuable insight into the skills, qualifications and dedication required to pursue a career in aviation. They asked thoughtful questions and thoroughly enjoyed learning about the different opportunities available within the industry.

We would like to thank Mr M for taking the time to inspire and engage our students!





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## Maths Conference

Students from different schools gathered at Thomas Deacon Academy for an exciting OMEC conference, combining teamwork, problem-solving and hands-on innovation. The day began with a series of engaging maths sessions, challenging participants to apply their skills to real-world scenarios and think creatively under pressure. In the afternoon, the focus shifted to engineering as teams designed and constructed their own robotic arms. The event culminated in a friendly but competitive challenge, with schools putting their creations to the test in a lively contest. The conference provided a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their STEM skills, collaborate with peers, and experience the thrill of practical learning.



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## Sculpture Workshop

We were delighted to welcome a visiting artist to school for a special sculpture workshop. During the session, pupils explored a range of sculpting techniques, experimented with different materials, and created their own unique three-dimensional artworks. This inspiring hands-on experience encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and artistic expression while giving students the opportunity to learn from a professional artist!



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## MASTERCLASS

Students took part in a masterclass focused on developing their skills as logical problem solvers. Together, we explored the idea that solutions are not always immediately obvious and that effective problem solvers embrace a "productive struggle" when faced with challenges. Working collaboratively in groups, students tested different approaches, reflected on their thinking, and identified the strategies that work best for them. Through discussion and teamwork, they developed resilience, perseverance, and confidence in tackling complex problems.

### KS3 Excellence Pathway Masterclass

Thinking like a Problem  
Solver – Session Two

## Logic Puzzle Circuit

### Possible strategies:

Trial and error  
Working backwards  
Looking for patterns  
Breaking into smaller steps

Which puzzle felt  
hardest?  
What strategy  
helped?  
When did you get  
stuck?

## Problem solvers...

<i>Problem solvers do...</i>	<i>Problem solvers don't...</i>
Experiment	Quit immediately
Adapt	Assume failure means inability
Learn from failed attempts	
Persist through uncertainty	

### Productive Struggle

"The learning happens when the answer isn't obvious."





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## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The Excellence Pathway is designed to encourage students to extend their learning beyond the classroom by taking part in extra-curricular and enrichment activities.

Students record their participation and reflect on the skills they develop in a dedicated handbook. Progress is reviewed through half-termly meetings where students showcase new skills and achievements. The pathway promotes confidence, independence, and employability skills, and recognises commitment through Bronze, Silver, and Gold participation awards.

Students taking part in the Excellence Pathway attend a half-termly meeting to review their progress, reflect on achievements, and share the skills they have developed. These sessions also provide opportunities to hear from guest speakers, explore pathways into further study and careers, and learn from the experiences of others in the programme.

How can parents support?

- ✓ Encourage your child to take part in extra-curricular and extension activities
  - ✓ Remind them to record activities and dates in their handbook
  - ✓ Talk with them about new skills they are developing
  - ✓ Support attendance at half-termly pathway meetings
- ✓ Celebrate progress and achievements at Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels

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