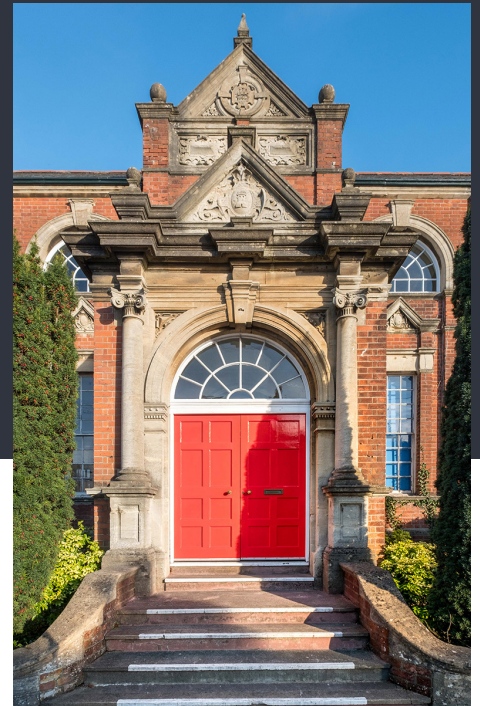




Isle of Wight  
Education Federation

# HALF-TERMLY NEWSLETTER

Edition 3  
9 February 2024



News and updates from the Isle of Wight Education Federation;  
Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form.



## Dance Live! 2024

Congratulations to the IWEF Dance Live! 2024 Team who won awards for their technical skills and their soundtrack. Read more about the competition on page 4.





## Message from the Executive Headteacher, Mr Parr-Burman

Welcome to the third edition of our half-termly Federation Newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy seeing some of the highlights of the exciting activities and opportunities for learning both inside and outside of the classroom that our students have been doing, individually as three separate sites and in some instances as a Federation.

We are half-way through the academic year now and before we know it, will be racing towards the Easter break. As always, it is vitally important that every student takes every opportunity to make progress every day in every lesson. We want all of our students to succeed and do their very best and the most important way to do this is with 100% attendance in school and in lessons.

The countdown for our Year 11 and Year 13 students is well under way now. Individual revision programmes should be in place by students, all opportunities for additional support should be embraced and any concerns should be followed up with the relevant staff. Year 10 will also be sitting their first set of trial exams in the next half term. A summary of exam venue logistics, routines and behavioural expectations has been delivered to Year 10 students on both sites over the last week, so students are now clear on what they should and should not do. Year 9 will be continuing with their important KS4 Pathways journey as they investigate further the range of subjects available to them for their GCSE courses.

I am aware that we have two significant strategic changes coming up over the next six to nine months, relating to the de-federation of the schools and our joining of HISP MAT. I would like to reassure you that parents/carers and students will initially experience very little operational change from either of the transitions. In the main, they are high level organisational developments to encourage and enable more rapid improvements for the students and the schools. The de-federation will promote and facilitate more targeted focus and accountability for the individual sites. The 'Federation' has had many positives, and wherever possible and appropriate, we will look to continue to use these relationships as we will remain a family of local schools, with the benefit of having some 'extended family' in Hampshire and Dorset in the near future. Our driving force is improved outcomes for all of our young people. I thank you in advance for your support during the coming months.

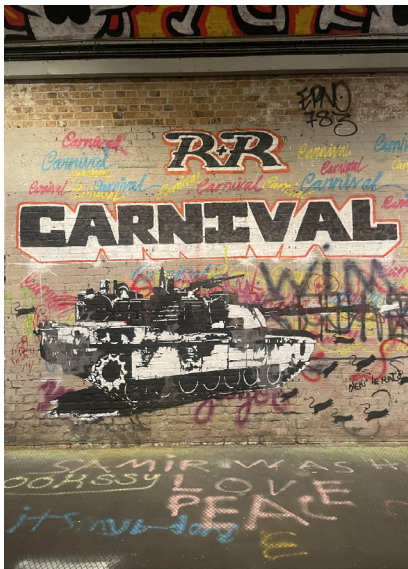
Next week is half term and Carisbrooke College, Medina College and The Island VI Form all return on Monday, 19 February 2024, which will be week 2 of the timetable.

Well done to all of our amazing students and staff who have arranged and facilitated everything in this fantastic newsletter. I am very proud of you all.

## A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic

45 Year 10 students from Carisbrooke College, along with Mrs A Smith, Ms Ryan, Mr Lyle, Mrs Croad and Mr Matthias, travelled to London to watch Christopher Ecclestone in A Christmas Carol at The Old Vic, and what a treat they had!

The group travelled by coach, arriving in London in time for a spot of lunch in the park and a walk to the nearby Leake Street Arches – a legal graffiti area under Waterloo Station. Here they discovered an original Banksy and saw some incredible artwork being produced.



It was then time to enter the theatre and settle in for the show. The group were met by theatre ushers offering complimentary mince pies and satsumas whilst members of the cast interacted with the audience.

The show began only to be halted very quickly due to a 'technical issue' which, in itself, caused quite a buzz. Half an hour later the show was on again and the students were spellbound by Christopher Ecclestone in the role of Scrooge. He played a sincere and dynamic role where they were rooting for him on his journey of redemption.



They rejoiced in the second half when the realisation that he does love Christmas was shown in abundance. When potatoes and vegetables were parachuted from the

Gods, a turkey was zip wired onto the stage and it started to snow, there was a collective feeling of joy that was undeniable.

On the return journey the group were delighted to make the early ferry and were all home and tucked up in bed by 9.00 pm!

The students were an absolute credit to the school and behaviour was impeccable.



## Dance Live! 2024 - Team IWEF

Dance Live! is a competition for schools and colleges which sees students put together a choreographed performance to the backdrop of a giant digital screen. There is a focus on raising aspirations, strengthening health and wellbeing and developing skills for creative career choices.

Students from across the Federation have been working hard for the last six months to put together an amazing entry into this year's competition. The piece focused on two young siblings placed into foster care and the impact this has on them. The theme was highly emotive and our students really brought it to life through their performance.



The team received some absolutely incredible feedback from the judges and received awards for their soundtrack and their technical skills - lighting, LED content and backstage efforts.

Throughout the development of this year's entry, students have developed their leadership, creativity and teamworking skills. They have developed social bonds and have made memories that will stay with them forever. We are so proud of this year's team and are very grateful to all of the staff involved. Thank you to Mr Williams, Miss Fairweather, Miss Stevens, Ms Ryan and Mrs O'Callaghan.



## Isle of Wight County Press Co-Editor Visit

Lucy Morgan, Co-Editor of the Isle of Wight County Press, visited aspiring Journalists at The Island VI Form on 19 January to share some insider info about how to get a good story. Huge thanks to Lucy for giving her time to our students.

There are more opportunities than ever this year for students to get writing experience, including interviewing speakers at February's

Isle of Wight Story Festival and taking part in the Young Reporters scheme. Those who take part can see their stories in print and build a professional portfolio towards their future plans.



## Made at Home Competition

The Medina College design and technology department held a competition last term to celebrate the skills and creativity of our key stage three students. Students were asked to submit photographs of products they had made in their own time at home. The diverse range of entries made it very hard for the judges to pick the winners and they were especially impressed with the amazing food related entries.

Year 7 winners - Jessie Goring (pictured below)

Year 7 runners up - Jack Day & Ethan Lofthouse

Year 8 Winner - Devlin Cowdrey (pictured below)

Year 8 runners up - Rebecca Barber

In addition to the student competition, a staff category was included and the quality of entries was high. A group of students were invited to judge the winner and they chose Mrs Smith who made a beautiful cardigan for her grandchild, pictured below.

Staff runners up - Mrs Bristow and Mrs Garey

Well done to everyone who entered the competition!



Jessie Goring



Devlin Cowdrey



Mrs Smith

## CPR Training for Year 7

Year 7 students at Carisbrooke have just finished their British Heart Foundation CPR Training and passed with flying colours!

They all engaged well and worked hard to practice the necessary life saving skills involved in performing CPR on a casualty. We would like to thank Dana Edkins-Wherry and Steve Read who are volunteers with The British Heart Foundation and were kind enough to give up their time to teach our students these valuable life saving skills.

Steve Read is also the founder of IOW Defibrillators and is responsible for ensuring we have defibrillators on site to save lives in the event of an emergency. We are truly grateful for their support.

Both Dana and Steve were very impressed by the effort of all students. They asked interesting questions and fully engaged in the sessions. Well done Year 7, we are very proud of you!



## Trip to Bovington Tank Museum

On Friday 26 January, 45 students from Year 9 and 10 at Carisbrooke and Medina headed off to Bovington in Dorset for a design and technology based trip to the world famous tank museum.

As always, the museum and staff were incredible; the museum has over 300 vehicles across multiple buildings and is extremely well set up for catering to school students.

Our first stop was the Mk IV world war one tank where, in groups, we got to spend some time in the tank and hearing what it would have been like to experience the earliest tanks in battle. It was a fairly horrific environment; 45 degrees celsius, full of toxic fumes, no suspension and so loud there was no way of talking to one another in the vehicle itself. By modern standards, this rudimentary design was a game changer in the war and helped turn the tide against the Germans in 1917 and 18 particularly.

Moving on, we got to participate in a similar experience but this time in a relatively modern Chieftain tank. These were in service until the early 1990s and, although far better protected

and rather safer to be in than the deadly environment of the Mark IV, it was still an incredibly tight squeeze where the tank crew may have to spend days or even weeks.

In the afternoon, we looked around the conservation centre where we got to see the massive collection of stored tanks and the workshops where they are maintained and repaired. We were given a superb tour of the facilities and the mechanics and engineers talked us through the numerous issues they have encountered in looking after vehicles that, in many cases, have been out of service for decades.

It was a full on, fantastic day and the staff at the tank museum complimented the students on their impeccable behaviour, attitude and attentiveness on the trip, and were particularly impressed by their excellent manners.



## Year 7 Disco

On Thursday 1 February, we had our 'Glitter and Glow' themed Year 7 Disco to celebrate the students completing their first term at Medina College. The event was a great success for students and staff alike with face paint and glitter, glow sticks, Bahar's tuck shop and an incredible set by DJ (Mr Turner) who provided the tunes. It was lovely to see so many students joining in with the fun and letting their hair down.

Thank you to the staff who gave up their time to organise and set up the disco and in particular to Mr Worsley who showed the students up on the dance floor. It was a well deserved treat for the year group and I hope those who came had a night to remember.



## Year 7 Basketball Debut

Our Year 7 basketball team took part in their first ever basketball game on Tuesday 23 January against a very strong outfit from The Bay. Despite losing the game 7-25, the boys never stopped working hard and, most importantly, played as a team.

Whilst it took until the fourth quarter to get on the scoresheet, it was worth the wait. Will intercepted a pass and broke down court at a sprint and as he shot from just inside the three point line. Not only was he fouled but the ball dropped in to give this cohort of players their first points. This was quickly followed by a complete front flip by Will in celebration which is the first time I have seen this in 30 years of playing or watching basketball. However, Will was not done with this celebration and performed it once again when Dylan scored a quality jump shot from distance. Following this, Logan scored his first points of his Carisbrooke career with a lay-up to stay level with his brother and Dexter completed the scoring from the free throw line.

Also taking part in their first game was Joel, Jack and Ted who were instrumental in their constant battling for the ball.

Well done to all of the team.  
Mr Peake.



## Christmas Songs at Mountbatten

At the end of last term, students from Years 7 and 10 from Medina College and Years 12 and 13 at The Island VI Form visited Mountbatten Hospice to spread some musical Christmas joy.

They performed several Christmas songs for patients and service users and Moutbatten described the afternoon as “a joyous and lovely occasion for those we support.”



## Year 7 Badminton Fun

The key stage four badminton players from Medina College participated in a very well run tournament at Christ the King College this half term. They represented Medina excellently, playing some great badminton and working well together in their doubles pairings.

The key stage three team, made up of Year 7 and Year 9 students, also performed admirably and learnt a lot throughout the tournament.

Unfortunately, none of the doubles pairings got through to finals days, but there's always next year! Well done to everyone involved.



## VI Form STEM Club

We have been experimenting with making and using natural dyes recently at the VI Form STEM Club. We have used tie dying and wax resist to make different patterns.

We then moved into the chemistry behind dying fabric and how different dyes adhere to different materials. This culminated in our three dyes experiment.

Three dyes are mixed together in one container. Different fabrics are put into the container and come out in different colours.

The VI Form STEM Club meets every Wednesday in 6S4 from 3.15 - 4.15 pm. All students are welcome!



	Cotton	Wiscose	Wool	polyester	polycotton	Unknown
Blue						
Yellow						
Red						
Mix						





## Success at the Resilience Challenge

A resilience challenge took place this half term for schools and colleges across the Island organised by Ed-Wise. Students were given a hypothetical emergency scenario and had to put relief plans in place and present them.

IWEF students performed fantastically in this challenge with The Island VI Form team being crowned the overall winners and Medina College students being presented with the award for the most innovative response.

Students showed great career capital skills including: public speaking; teamwork; creative thinking; leadership and creative problem solving.



*“During the Digital Twin Resilience Challenge our team of six, along with many other Island schools, were given a fake scenario (in which an unexploded bomb was unearthed during construction near the car park adjacent to the Council building) and tasked with creating a presentation detailing our evacuation plan and response, focused on infrastructure. Our favourite plan we came up with was to suggest sending children to the local soft play center, JR Zone, providing a safe and engaging environment during the crisis. This imaginative strategy not only prioritised the safety of our youngest community members but also showcased our team’s ability to think creatively under pressure and in an ever changing situation. Despite technical difficulties we won ‘best overall course of action’, making*

*the difficulties and hard work worth it. Overall, we most enjoyed working together as a team and completing the wide variety of different tasks and responses needed, allowing us to get to know each other and complete tasks most suited to our individual skills. We knew this hard work paid off when we managed to finish our presentation with just four seconds left of the 15 minute time limit! We have learnt many skills from this experience, such as working well under pressure and communicating effectively with one-another, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.”*

- Amelie and Rachel, The Island VI Form students

*“The whole experience was like nothing I’ve ever experienced before. We got to speak to people from many different jobs like the police and a water company, and we got to spend lots of time planning our own evacuation plan for a hypothetical situation. It made me think in a way I’ve never had to for any of my subjects and helped me understand just how much goes into planning evacuations in the real world; I found it a very interesting experience. The presentation at the end, I thought, would be scary to do, but because of how much work we’d all put into planning it, it was instead exciting as we got to share our ideas. I spoke to people from my year I hadn’t before and got to know other peers better. Also, the food was amazing! This has helped broaden my knowledge of future jobs and inspired me a lot. I would definitely recommend The Resilience Challenge happening again.”*

- Imogen, Medina College



## 5-a-side Football Success

On 10 January, the Medina College Year 7 boys football team was back in action after a short break from fixtures. This time they were playing in the annual Island Schools 5-a-side Tournament. This was on the back of them winning runners up medals in the Island Schools Outdoor League, so confidence in the team was high.

After beating Carisbrooke in their first game, they were challenged by The Bay School, and lost to them narrowly. That loss woke the boys up and they then went unbeaten for the rest of the tournament. As the last game of the tournament

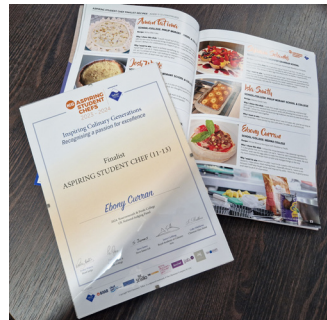
arrived, it was out of our control and we needed Cowes to keep The Bay to a two goal lead. In a fraught final few seconds, The Bay scored and took the event with Medina finishing in a highly credible second place! Well done to the whole team and to Mr Dye for organising the event.



## ICG Cooking Competition

Well done to Medina College Year 8 student, Ebony, who took part in the ICG cooking competition and made it all the way to the finals, finishing as a runner up.

This is the first time that Medina has entered students into this competition and staff were delighted to have 15 enthusiastic entries. Well done Ebony, we are all very proud of you!



## Year 11 Revision

GCSE examinations are rapidly approaching for Year 11 students and revision has been a key focus for them this half term. Sessions for parents/carers were held at Carisbrooke College and Medina College and lots of tips for supporting students were shared. You can find lots of this information on our website at the following link: <https://www.iwef.org.uk/iwef/year-11-exams/>

Revision sessions are being held at Carisbrooke and Medina over the half term break and students are strongly encouraged to attend as many of these sessions as they can to maximise their potential for success.

Details of the sessions can be found in letters sent to parents this week and can be found at the following links:

[Carisbrooke College](#) | [Medina College](#)

# Army Insight Presentation

On 25 January, Carisbrooke College students were treated to a loud, exciting, challenging afternoon, delivered by 14 members of the British Army. When we think of the British Army, it's not always obvious how many different job roles there are; but these representatives were ready to demonstrate exactly what is needed to run a successful Army!

Students got stuck into a variety of rigorous activities, designed to demonstrate the skills and personality traits required to perform the following seven types of job role: Combat; Engineering; Logistics and Support; Medical; Intelligence, Comms and IT, HR, Finance and Support and Music!

The students enjoyed an afternoon of teamwork accompanied by live music from one of the British Army's musical bands.



# National Apprenticeships Week

## 5 - 9 February 2024



During this year's National Apprenticeships Week, students across the Federation have been learning more about the opportunities and possible career pathways offered by apprenticeships through engaging in a range of activities, information and games.

Throughout the year we also offer assemblies, information sessions and taster sessions from local employers and training providers. This enables students to investigate apprenticeships alongside other pathways in order to make informed decisions about their future careers.

### What is Apprenticeship?

An apprenticeship is a paid job through which the apprentice learns and gains valuable experience through both on-the-job training and classroom-based learning. Apprentices generally spend at least 20% of their working hours (usually one day a week) studying for a nationally recognised qualification with a college, university or training provider. Apprenticeships are for people aged 16+ but there is no upper age limit. This means that you can consider an apprenticeship at any stage following GCSEs, including after VI Form.

### What can I take an Apprenticeship in?

There are apprenticeships available in over 700 different jobs sectors across a range of industries. You can even become a Doctor, a Lawyer, a Teacher or an Accountant through an apprenticeship.

### What qualifications will I need to take an Apprenticeship?

This depends on the level of the apprenticeship you plan to take. The levels are:

#### Intermediate - Level 2

This is equivalent to GCSE level, but you will need GCSEs to apply. Most employers require passes in English and Maths at GCSE and some may require five GCSE passes in total. For apprenticeships in some trade areas (eg Electrical Installation or Plumbing), some employers may prefer to take students who

already have Level 1 or Level 2 vocational qualifications.

#### Advanced - Level 3

This is equivalent to A levels. Most employers will require at least five GCSE passes including English and Maths as an entrance requirement to an Advanced Apprenticeship.

#### Higher/Degree - Levels 4 to 7

A Higher Apprenticeship (Level 4) is equivalent to the first stages of higher education, such as a Foundation degree. A Degree Apprenticeship (Level 6) is equivalent to a university Bachelors degree and it is even possible to progress to a Level 7 Apprenticeship which is equivalent to a Masters degree. Applicants to Higher or Degree Apprenticeships will need A-levels or other Level 3 qualifications.

Depending upon a number of factors, the level of apprenticeship taken will not always follow on from the previous level of qualification attained. For example, following A-levels or other Level 3 qualifications, you can usually progress to a Higher or Degree Apprenticeship, but you could instead take an Advanced apprenticeship and work your way up.

### What can I do after an Apprenticeship?

By the end of your apprenticeship, you will hopefully have gained the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in your chosen career area or progress onto the next apprenticeship level. You will also have qualifications to support the next stage of your career journey.



## What is the difference between an Apprenticeship and a Traineeship?

A Traineeship is an education and training programme which includes work experience. It is for young people aged 16 - 18 who want to find a paid Apprenticeship or other employment but need to gain further skills, qualifications and experience as well as the mindset that employers are looking for. While the Traineeship programme is no longer available nationally, it is still offered on the Island by HTP Apprenticeship College who offer opportunities with a range of employers as well as a two year traineeship/apprenticeship programme in conjunction with the NHS. <https://www.htp.ac.uk/>

## Where can I find an Apprenticeship?

There are lots of different resources to find apprenticeship opportunities.

### Local Searches

The Isle of Wight jobs website has a section just for apprenticeships: [https://www.isleofwightjobs.com/jobs/by\\_industry/apprenticeships/](https://www.isleofwightjobs.com/jobs/by_industry/apprenticeships/)

Local employers - check websites and watch out for media campaigns. GKN has been advertising for Advanced and Higher Apprentices over the last few weeks (<https://joinus.gknaerospace.com/> - applications close on Sunday 11th February) and BAE is currently advertising: <https://www.baesystems.com/en/careers/careers-in-the-uk/apprenticeships>

The IW Council sometimes advertise for apprentices: <https://iwc.iow.gov.uk/jobvacancies/>

You might also wish to check the IW College Apprenticeship vacancies: <https://iwcollege.ac.uk/apprenticeships/apprentices/apprenticeship-vacancies>, or book an appointment at HTP Apprenticeship College to find out more about their programmes.

You might hear about vacancies through word of mouth - speak to family and friends to see if they might have any useful contacts.

You could also try a speculative application: submit your CV and a cover letter to an employer explaining why you are keen to undertake an apprenticeship. If you are committed and enthusiastic, they might be willing to take you on.

Check the IWEF Year 11 Careers Opportunities Google Classroom or the Island VI Form Student Services Google Classroom - we will post any opportunities that are sent to us.

National Searches (with local opportunities)

IWEF students can log into their Unifrog account and use the Apprenticeships Tool to find opportunities in a range of areas and at different levels.

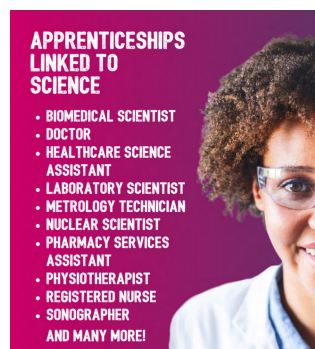


Try the national government apprenticeship search: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

UCAS (the UK Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) also promotes and advertises apprenticeships. Most opportunities are for Higher and Degree apprenticeships but there are some Intermediate and Advanced apprenticeships too.

<https://careerfinder.ucas.com/jobs/apprenticeship/>

Apprenticeships can be an exciting way to follow your career journey, whatever you are interested in and whatever your chosen level of study. To learn more see: <https://amazingapprenticeships.com/resource/the-apprenticeship-assembly-film/>



## Mock Interviews

Year 11 students across the Federation have taken part in the mock interview process this week. Local business people and employers have very kindly given their time to support our students by offering each of them the experience of a mock job interview.

This is a phenomenal opportunity for students to experience what an interview is like and to receive feedback. The whole experience will place them in a stronger position when applying for jobs in the future.



*Josh Cooke, a former student of Medina College and The Island VI Form is now in his second year as a Higher Technical Apprentice with GKN. He returned to Medina to meet with current students and assist with our mock interview programme.*

