

# Team MINSTHORPE

f /minsthorpecc

t @MinsthorpeCC

EDITION 4

SPRING TERM  
2021

Minsthorpe Community College | Motivation • Commitment • Care

Welcome to Edition 4 of our termly newsletter, which has certainly not been the term we envisaged when we broke up for Christmas.

We started the term anticipating a delayed start of perhaps two weeks in January and within a day, it was apparent that we faced another extended period of school closure. We couldn't be more proud of the way our students, their parents/carers and our staff have pulled together, as only Team Minsthorpe can, to ensure learning has continued to take place. This newsletter includes a showcase of some of the outstanding work, which students have completed at home. Well done everyone!

We have adapted to the many challenges by continuing with events on the College calendar, but hosting them in the virtual world. Most notably, the Year 8 Options Evening and the annual Careers Fair were accessed and enjoyed in



video format. Be sure to read Mr Dowey's article about our excellent progression figures for last year's Year 11, which are testament to our coherent Careers Education and Guidance Programme. We want the young people of our College to leave us ready to contribute to the wider world and society, using their very many talents. Enjoy reading about the successes of our former students on the rugby field or in the world of theatre. Such fantastic role models for our current students!





It has been a pleasure to welcome our students back to College. Whilst everyone has worked hard remotely, this can never be the same as being in a classroom. We have loved seeing the motivation and commitment of our students and their teachers and others in lessons; enjoying learning together.

We are particularly excited

### An Actor's Dream!

Ex Student, Daniel Britton, has been successful in gaining a place at RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts) in London. WOW!!!

To study at one of the countries most prestigious Drama schools, is a dream come true and Daniel surely deserves the opportunity to show the world how talented he is. We wish Daniel the best of luck.

Whatever your dreams... aim high!



about the opening of the newly refurbished Creative Block and feel very lucky to enjoy first class facilities for learning and teaching at Minsthorpe. These will be enhanced further in the future as we are delighted to be able to let you know that Minsthorpe was selected as one of the first 50 schools in the country to be part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme. We are currently in discussion with the Department for Education regarding the details of which buildings should be rebuilt. More information will follow soon!

And already, we are looking forward to the Easter holidays and the lighter, brighter days ahead. Easter is the time of new life (as well as chocolate eggs!) and we look to the future with cautious optimism. We encourage our students to stick to the COVID restrictions and to continue lateral flow tests during the holiday weeks, in order to reduce the transmission of the virus across our community and, hopefully, see the easing of restrictions in the months ahead.

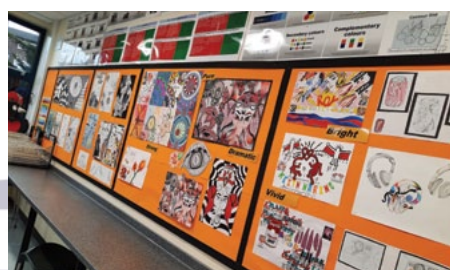
Thank you to everyone for demonstrating the College vision throughout this term: Minsthorpe Community College: a place where everyone plays their part in strengthening our learning community through **Motivation, Commitment and Care.**

Mr Gilmore

M. Gilmore

Mrs Merritt

F. A. Merritt







# Beat the Teacher Challenge



During lockdown 3.0 the PE department launched the “beat the teacher challenge” for Years 7 and 8. This challenge was set to encourage students and staff to move away from their computer screens and to be physically active during this lockdown period.

## Challenge 1 – Toilet roll keepie uppie

The first challenge which was set by Miss Fretwell. Students and staff were challenged to beat Miss Fretwell’s score of 6 keepie uppies using a toilet roll. We had over 80 students submit a score and a video for this challenge; a fantastic achievement by everyone. The winner with 40 keepie uppies in Year 7 was Freddie Dale and the winner with 20 keepie uppies in Year 8 was Jamie Eeles. The challenge proved to be very competitive especially between members of staff with Mr Lumley and Mr Falkiner battling to be the champion. In the end Mr Falkiner won with 36 keepie uppies beating Mr Lumley at 32!

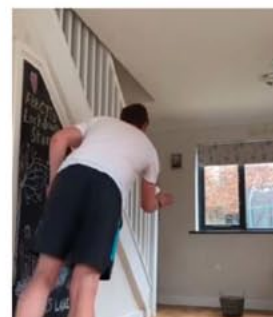
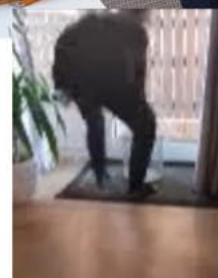
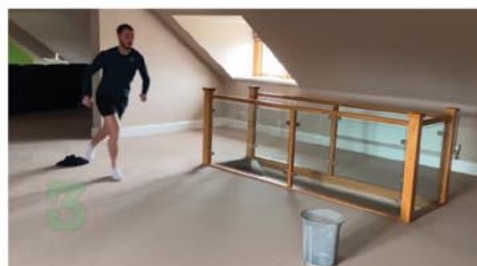
Here are a few entries from students and staff...



## Challenge 2 – Paper throw

The next challenge was set by Mr Applegarth. This challenge students and staff were required to throw a paper ball into a bin or a bucket as many times as they could within 30 seconds. Mr Applegarth managed to get 4 on his attempt. The winner in Year 7 was Lilly Chambers and the winner in Year 8 was Nicola Rybicka. This challenge was harder than it looked, as some members of staff struggled to get even get beyond 2! Well done to Mr Royds-Jones who scored an impressive 8!

Here are a few entries from staff and students...



Congratulations to all of the winners and the runners up in these challenges. The PE department would like to thank everyone for participating in this challenge. We hope it has given you something to smile about during this time.

Who will beat the teacher next time?



# #MINSTHORPEPE



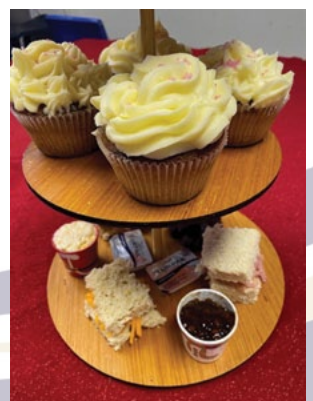


## Afternoon Tea at Minsthorpe.

In November/December Year 10 Hospitality and catering students were involved in an exciting assessed practical task.

The students carried out trials of various bread/ pastry and cake items, leading up to a day off timetable, where they created a full afternoon tea.

This involved 3 baked items, e.g Bread, Sausage rolls, Scones, cupcakes and were presented to a high standard as they would come in a café or restaurant. We were blown away with their efforts and outcomes.





## Go Higher West Yorkshire Weekly Challenge

Over lockdown, our students in Years 9 to 13 have been invited to take part in the Go Higher West Yorkshire Weekly Challenge. Each week, students complete a different task whilst learning more about the possibility of studying higher education – all for the chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher.

Week one challenged students to create an art form which presented their hopes for 2021, and was won by Tegan Patton (9.3). Tegan wrote a beautifully emotive but optimistic poem, entitled 'Light at the End of the Tunnel':

*"You must stay at home,  
You can't go out unless you're  
alone,  
Virus outbreak strikes the  
world,  
Everyone is worried and  
concerned,  
No longer able to see the light,  
With dark long endless nights.*

*Getting trapped in my mind,  
Leaving the world we use to*

*know behind,  
No one is safe to leave the  
house,  
Still not able to see the light,  
I worry I will never go out.*

*I can finally see a small light,  
Is hope now in sight?  
After millions of deaths and  
tests,  
A new year is upon us,  
Vaccines are out,*

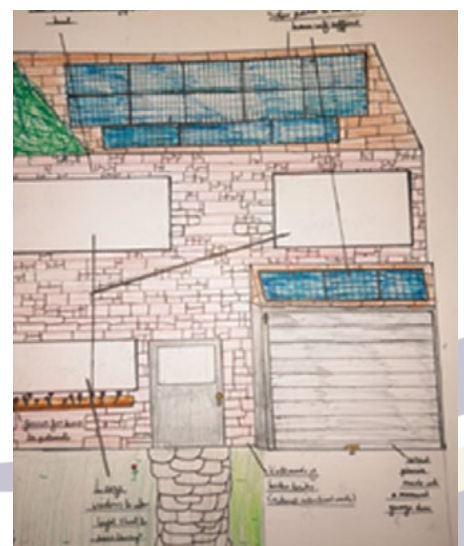
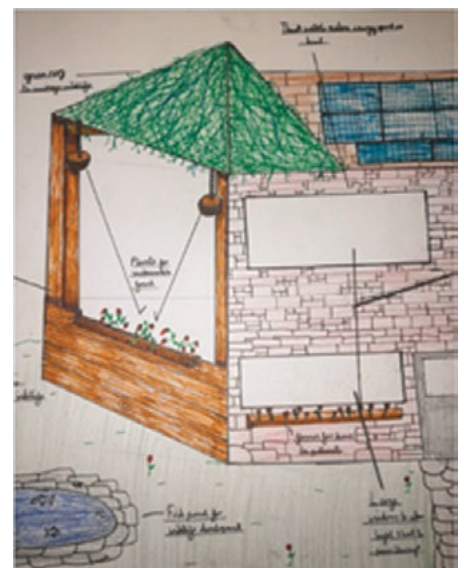
*I no longer have doubt,  
The light is so bright.  
We are slowly coming out of  
the tunnel,  
I can't wait to give everyone a  
cuddle,  
Reunited as a country,  
The weather is sunny,  
I can finally feel good,  
We are out of the dark,  
We are finally free,  
And I can be me. "*

Week two challenged students to design an eco-friendly essential item which you might expect to see in 100 years, and was won by Faith Sheridan (11.3). Faith designed an eco-friendly house, which as well as looking very stylish, included lots of features which would reduce the carbon footprint of the people living there.

Week three challenged students to bake a celebration cake for a great event in 2021, and was won by Tegan Patton (9.3) (again!). Inspired by the possible reopening of theatres later in the year, Tegan showcased her love for all things drama and performance with this skilfully decorated cake.



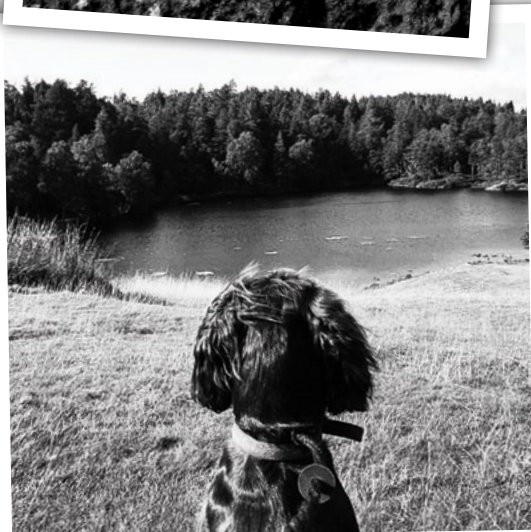
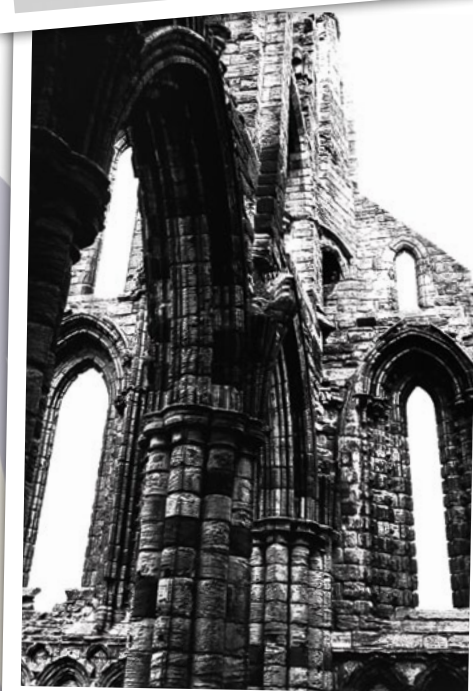
Congratulations to all of the winners so far and thank you to all students who have taken part!





## Sophie Shines in Photography

Sophie Hazelgrave Year 13 is a very talented photographer, who has been developing her experimentation skills during her remote lessons. She makes her photographs very personal to herself, her feelings and her interests. Sophie doesn't let anything stop her from applying herself and trying her best. This is an example of the standard of work that she has been submitting. Well done Sophie, keep up the hard work.







## These Girls Can

We would like to share with you some of this year's recent sporting achievements from some of our current and recently graduated students. The below students came through our PE department represented MCC as part of our Rugby League extra-curricular programme.

Ella Johnson, she is in her 1st year at the University at Chester and has secured an U'19s contract with the Leeds Rhinos for 2021.

Ellie Brown 2nd year and Olivia Whitehead 1st year at Wakefield College. Both have secured a 1st team contract for 2021 at Wakefield Trinity who play in the Women's Superleague, which is the highest level of Rugby League in the UK.

Alisha Nix and Meg Hardy both 1st years at Wakefield College have secured an U'18s contract with Wakefield Trinity Academy for the 2021 season.

Current students Daney Jarrett (P16) and Mia Winks (Y11) have both secured U'18s contracts with Wakefield Trinity Academy for the 2021 season.

Fantastic achievements!

#ThisGirlCan

#RugbyLeague



## Year 8: Hospitality & Catering

We have been learning about the ingredients in bread (how yeast reacts with the warm water, and starches in the flour to create CO<sub>2</sub>), and how the dough must be kneaded to work the gluten which gives bread its texture. Two of our fantastic students (Emma and Elise) and been baking at home and made these lovely loaves.





## National Careers Week

Unfortunately, due to COVID our National Careers Week programme was a little disrupted, however with the support of Mrs Lewis and the SMSC team we managed to put together a programme that still offered a great careers experience for our students.

Our careers fair which was sponsored by Go Higher West Yorkshire (thanks, GHWY) went virtual and live on the 4th March. We attracted around 50 providers for the event from a range of different areas; Universities, Apprenticeship providers, Colleges and careers information providers. The information supplied was varied and included virtual tours, information sessions, career stories to raise aspirations and much more.

Our Year 8 options programme also had an activity during National Careers Week. Students would usually come into college to speak to curriculum teachers about their subjects. Again this year we have gone virtual. The teachers put together some brilliant video clips about their subjects which students accessed on Tuesday 2nd March. This came at the end of a great options programme that the students have completed through SMSC lessons where they had a presentation about where to find information

to support their options decision making; set tasks to complete where they researched job roles, and research into each subject area through answering quiz questions.

After last year's successful launch to Year 9 'Go to work with a parent / carer day' work experience programme, Mr Dowey was really looking forward to seeing how this progressed this year, but again (obviously) this has had to be cancelled for this year. Mrs Jackson and her SMSC/ L4L team have come up trumps. The Year 9 students have been set a virtual work experience activity, which included watching 'Stacey Dooley 9-5', this is a TV series following the work experience of a group of students.

Curriculum Areas have also been linking career roles to their curriculum subjects throughout National Careers week, so hopefully the students have not missed out on too much due to COVID.

## Destination Data & NEET

Over the last four years our NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) figures have been consistently low, meaning our students progress successfully into employment, education or training when they leave Year 11. On our return to College every September we trace all the students from the previous year's

Year 11 cohort. Our NEET figure for the past 4 years has always been 0.4% in September. We were delighted to welcome 119 of them back into our own Post 16 in September 2020.

During this year, Mr Hughes has supported Post 16 students who are possible leavers brilliantly. He has set them tasks and kept in constant contact with them, then together we have supported them into positive destinations. As you can see from the figures below, only 12 students have left Post 16 this year; 11 have moved into other positive destinations.

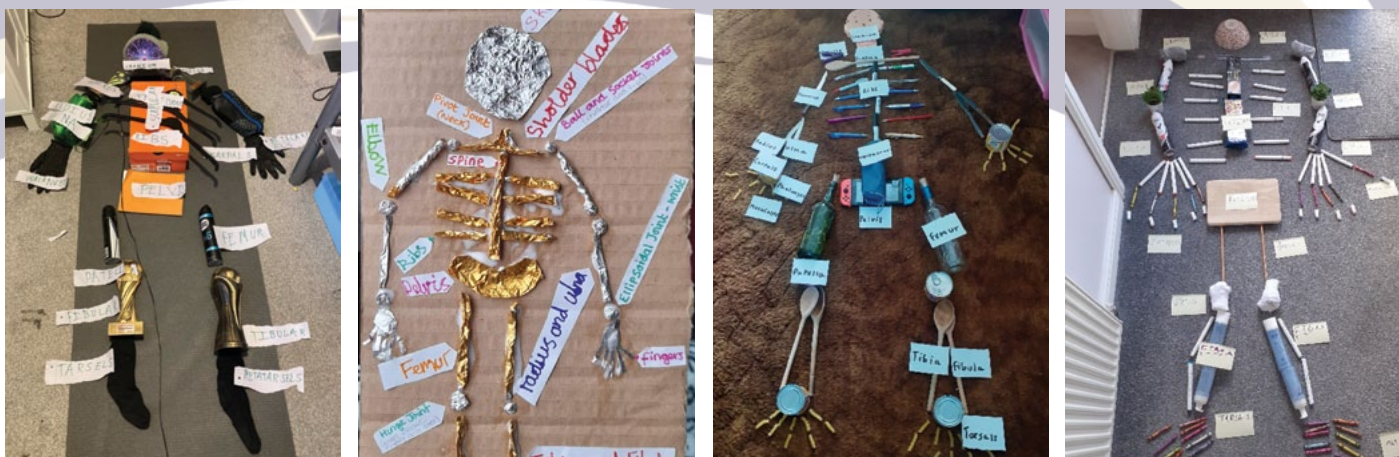
| Retention        |     |
|------------------|-----|
| Total Enrolled   | 119 |
| Returned Y13     |     |
| Dropped Out      | 12  |
| Pos Desitination | 11  |
| NEET             | 1   |

This year our NEET figure has been confirmed at 0%. The one student who we were aware of is now employed at Next PLC. This is excellent news!

If you know of any Year 11 student who is struggling with their progression plan, please ask them to get in touch with [tdowey@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:tdowey@minsthorpe.cc)

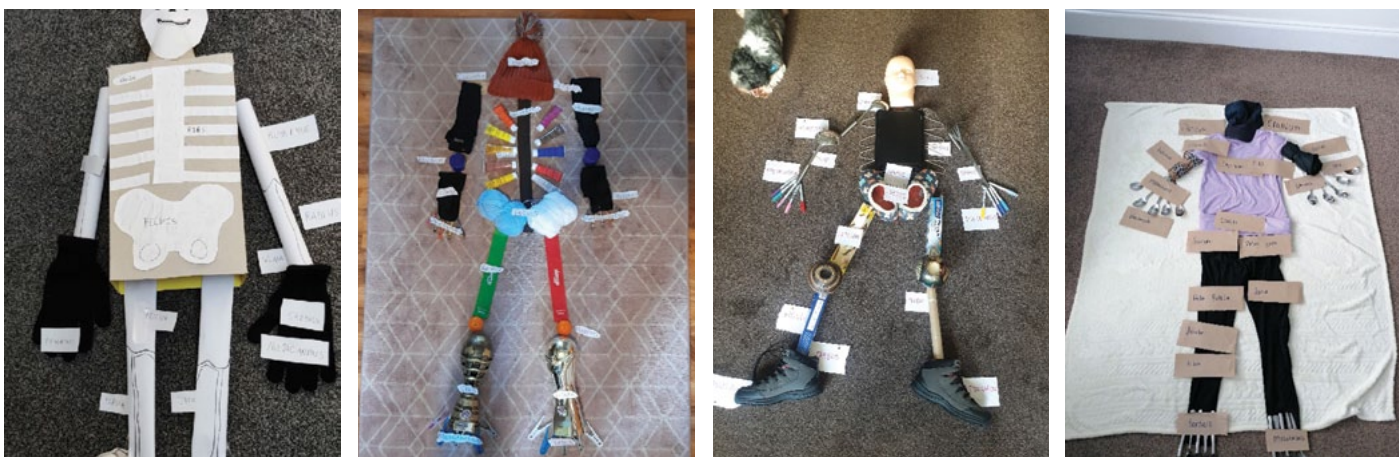






## KS3 Core PE Create their own Skeletons.

Miss Fretwell and Mr Applegarth have been really impressed with their Year 7 and Year 8 Core PE classes. They have created some amazing skeletons and identified all of the different bones and joints.



## Callum Bags First Prize in the Banksy Box Equality Challenge

Callum Mills (Year 7) was a winning entry in the Leeds United Football Club 'Banksy Box Equality Challenge'. First team player, Mateusz Klich (known for his creative eye) was our judge for the Challenge and Callum will receive a signed print of one of Matesuz's murals.

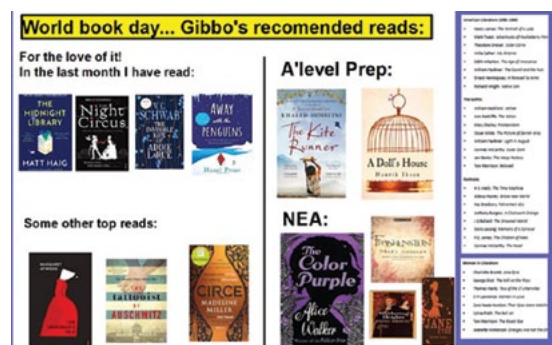
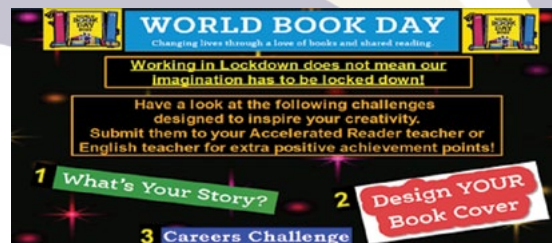
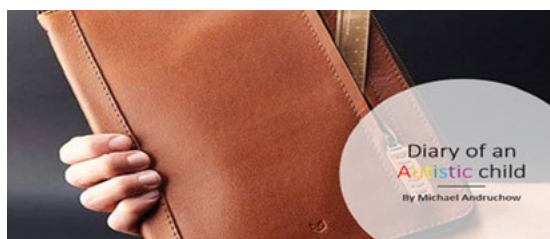
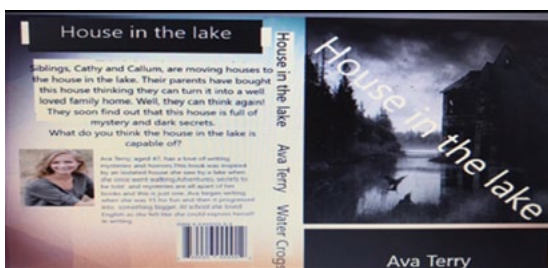


# World Book Day 2021

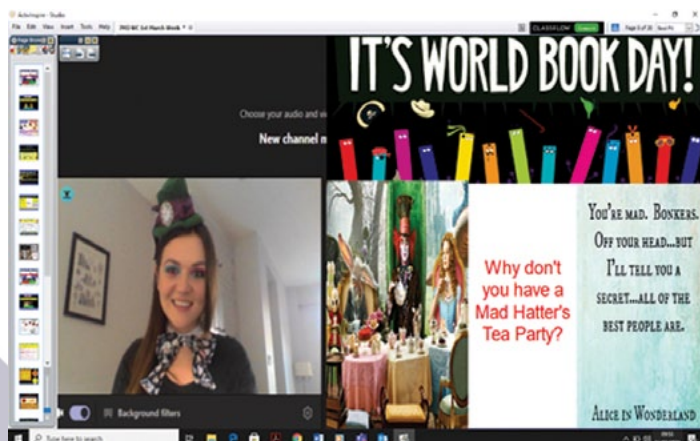
## Working in Lockdown does not mean our imagination has to be locked down!

The English Department launched a series of challenges via their KS3 English and Accelerated Reader lessons to celebrate this year's World Book Day on March 4th. All students in Years 7-11 were emailed a free £1 book voucher. Coinciding with National Careers Week, Mrs Thompson invited students to submit their own short stories about "lockdown heroes", to design their own book covers, or to devise a quiz to test their teacher's knowledge on Careers in Publishing.

Here are some of the fantastic entries:



In true World Book Day at MCC tradition, staff also dressed up as some of their favourite literary characters to teach remotely



We certainly enjoyed celebrating the joy of reading and the inspiration we can take from great literature!





Were do they live?

The axolotl is native only to Lake Xochimilco in the Valley of Mexico, as well as the canals and waterways of Mexico City. Because they're neotenic, their habitat reflects this: a high-altitude body of water.

What issue does that cause?

Water pollution has also affected the region's most unique creature: the axolotl. ... The wild axolotl is racing towards extinction. A 2003 study in Xochimilco by the Mexican Academy of Sciences found an average of 6,000 axolotls for each sq km; the latest survey, in 2015, has that number down to 36

What are the adaptations of the axolotl that enable it to survive?

Axolotls have also had to adapt their means of transportation because of their aquatic life. By a process called neoteny, the inability to metamorphose from larva to an adult, the Axolotls is able to retain its larval tail. This, along with having four limbs, improves mobility.

The Axolotl's gills are lined with filaments which increase surface area which is a benefit as an increased surface area directly correlates to volume of gas that is exchanged. ... The skin is also moist which dissolves the gases, more important for land but this means the gases diffuse more efficiently.

In both wild and aquarium conditions, axolotls will play dead to escape being eaten!

Axolotls also play dead in aquarium conditions even when there are no predators around.

Axolotls need feeding only two or three times a week because they take two to three days, on average, to digest their food.

They have very bad vision and rely on other senses of smell and touch to navigate the tank and move around.

## Carla Mirecsu

The giraffe's adaptations help them survive by giving them the power and energy to do what they need to do in order for them to survive.



Giraffes live in open habitats, such as savannas, grasslands and open woodlands because of their height and natural diet.

Giraffes need a plenty of open space, with trees and shrubs, and a source of water, which makes the savanna grasslands a perfect habitat for them.



They have also adapted the ability to go a long time without drinking a lot of water. Giraffes can survive off the water from the morning dew and water content on tree leaves.

During droughts, giraffes restrict their eating pattern and survive without food because they survive off the stored food in one of their four stomach chambers. The giraffe also adapts its diet to eat the foliage of the acacia tree.



Giraffes are native to Africa, particularly the area south of the Sahara Desert. It also gets really hot on those dry savannas which means there are a lot of droughts, this means that they have to adapt to having very little water or even none at all. This is the same with their food supply as well.

## Charlotte Price

## Science Competition

8D1 were given an independent research competition in science to look at the adaptations of animals in order for them to survive. The research and the facts that they found were amazing and choosing winners was a hard task. The work of the three winners is shared here, chosen for effort, interest and the most obscure creature!

They can be found in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans in temperate and tropical waters.

An air bubble stored in its stomach keeps the animal floating. The creature often floats on its backside.

## Blue glaucus

The bright blue color acts as camouflage against the ocean waves while the animal's gray sides camouflage with the sea surface, hiding it from predators below.

These creatures have venomous tentacles that may average up to 30 feet long.



Blue glaucus can grow up to 1.2 inches (3 cm) long.

## Kiera Oxley