



# CHADSGROVE EDUCATIONAL TRUST SPECIALIST COLLEGE

Christmas 2020 Newsletter

## COMMUNITY - POPPY PROJECT



To stay in touch with our community and to remain active with community projects whilst keeping safe, we have been having lots of Zoom meetings. Our first project this term was with The Royal British Legion. Students were able to learn more about Remembrance Day and the importance of the poppy. Students discovered that red poppies commemorate Armed Forces personnel and purple poppies are in remembrance of animals who have lost their lives during war and conflict. After our Zoom meeting, all students decorated the bottoms of pop bottles to create poppies to hang outside of the College building. We did this as part of the 'Make Bromsgrove Red' poppy project.

## DIARY DATES

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan - Staff INSET day, College closed for students.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan - Students return to College.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Math / Thinking Skills Enrichment Day
- Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb - Parents Evening, 6-8pm.
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb - Students break up.

## LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

Thank you to families for supporting students to attend our home learning sessions and helping to make them interactive and fun for everyone. We have had two zoom sessions per day including Christmas themed sing and sign, story massage, sensory stories and checking in with our emotional and physical well-being. A big thank you goes out to our special guests, Music Therapist Alison and Parkside Library Manager Nicki, for leading amazing sessions that the students really enjoyed.

## WORK SKILLS - CHRISTMAS MARKET

Although there was no Christmas Market on Bromsgrove High Street for us to attend this year, we did not give up on our Christmas crafts! We had a very important Zoom meeting with Jo Slade, Chairperson for Friends of St John's to plan how our sale could still go ahead!



We discussed ways to sell our Christmas enterprise items that students had been working hard to prepare. Jo was very happy to advertise our hand-crafted items on the Friends of St John's webpage for us and also discussed with students' other ways to sell their products. Students, supported by the staff team set up a click and collect service and a stall outside Chadsgrove School. The orders came in thick and fast and we had to work hard to keep up!



## STORY MESSAGE

Students warmed up for the festive season with an afternoon of story massage. 'The 12 days of Christmas' was first up and although it was fast, it was so much fun trying to remember all the signs. Second, was 'Christmas is Love', this was a big hit with the students and we ended up doing it twice.



## SENSORY STORY

A Sensory Story, 'The Woods' by Joanna Grace.

This half term the Explores have been enjoying a sensory story all about being in the woods. We have listened to the leaves rustle, been scared by strange sounds and cracking twigs, hidden from monsters that thankfully turned out to be just our friends playing a trick on us, we listened to the birds sing and made bird Kebabs with cheese, bread, apples and raisins. The students used their individual communication strategies to decide which order they wanted the foods to go in to the kebabs. The magpies in the College garden were very pleased with the finished products. (The students may have enjoyed a little tasting too!)



## LIVE COOK-A-LONG SESSION

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December we did our first ever zoom cook along session. The turnout was great and I think it is safe to say all the staff, students and parents who participated enjoyed themselves. We were determined to ensure isolation did not spoil our Christmas fun so we improvised and made mince pies together via zoom. Some of the parents even made their own pastry, how fantastic! As well as using all our senses, students were also working on independent living skills. My pies turn out fantastic and for my first time I was very impressed, they even got the seal of approval from my fussy eater son. What impressed me the most was how everyone was helping each other out, interacting and pulling together to have fun during isolation, I think we have a fantastic little community with amazing students and parents and would like to say thank you for making my Friday. I think after that zoom session we were all feeling the the Christmas spirit and our homes certainly smelt Christmassy.

Gemma (LSA)



## MATHS

This half term we have been working on personalised activities in our Math's lessons. Our focus has been on the Preparing for Adulthood area 'Independent Living Skills'. Students have been learning to prepare simple snacks, completing household tasks such as pairing socks, learning directions and developing skills when using an iPad. We have had lots of fun whilst learning new skills.



MATHS & INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS



*From Everyone at Chadsgrove College*

