



# Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College

Newsletter Autumn 1

## Our First Half Term of 2023-2024



We'd like to say a big warm welcome to all our new students who have had a great first half term settling in to College life. Our returning students have done a wonderful job at making their new classmates feel so supported and welcome.

We've been so happy to have our new garden area to use this half term. Students have enjoyed being the first ones to learn and relax in our amazing accessible garden that was completed at the end of the Summer Term. Students have been maintaining our vegetable patch and have ensured our vegetables are growing nicely. The new space has also allowed lessons such as Yoga, Mindfulness and Art to take place outside.

We can't wait to welcome you in to show you around our incredible garden.



## National Fitness Day 20th September 2023

Seekers and Explorers came together to celebrate National Fitness Day with an inclusive 'Seated Yoga' session led by Kirsty, our Physio Technician. Students joined in enthusiastically and thoroughly enjoyed the session, so much so that they voted to continue doing seated yoga during lunch dance club for this half term.

Students have also been working hard with our Physiotherapist Rachel to complete their assessments for the new academic year. Walkers and standers have been checked and altered and bespoke physiotherapy programs have been devised to support students to stay active and healthy.



**NATIONAL  
FITNESS  
DAY**



# Community and Relationships

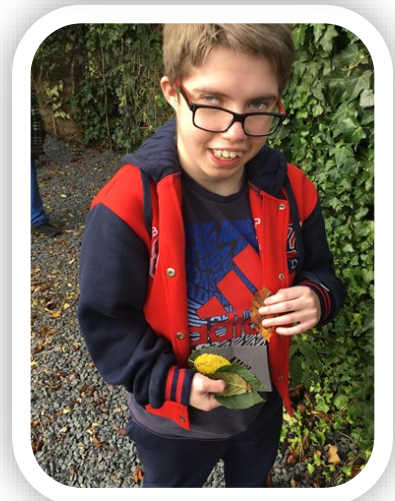
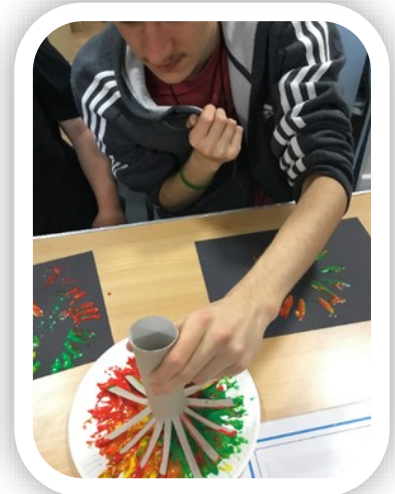
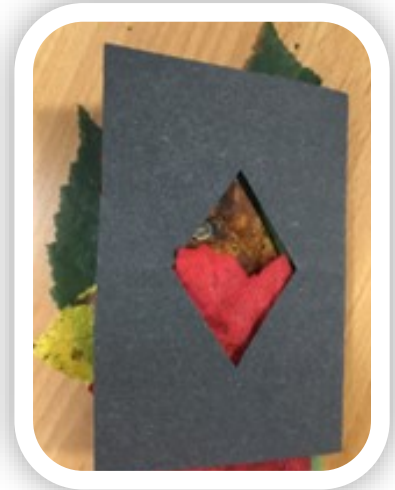
## Enrichment Day Monday 23rd October

This half term's Enrichment Day focused on the theme of 'Autumn'.

We had a Halloween themed dance session (including the song Thriller... of course!). Students got crafty and made some firework themed artwork.

We also made some stewed apple to smell, taste and touch. It was delicious and made the whole college smell of cinnamon!

We also made some natural autumn art frames and trinket bowls out of autumn leaves which we collected from our garden.





# Community and Relationships

## Student Voice

A new term means election time! Students have been learning about the role of a Student Ambassador. After finding out about the responsibilities for each role, students chose if they wanted to nominate themselves for one of the positions.

A short list was then drawn up with the help of the Ambassador Advocates. Elections have now taken place and like a true democracy, all students cast their votes.



All votes were counted and verified and we are delighted to announce the following appointments for the 2023 - 2024 academic year:

**Peer Mentors:** Ali and Mason

**Ambassadors for Communication:** Gashow and Muneeb

**Ambassadors for Well-being:** Mason and Ellie

**Ambassador for Health & Safety:** Thyo

**Ambassador for The Arts:** Kyle

The first Student Ambassador meeting of this year took place on 20<sup>th</sup> October. Agenda items included electing a new Chairperson and reviewing student friendly policies.

# Community and Relationships

## Mental Health Awareness Day 10th October 2023

The theme for this years Mental Health Awareness Day was 'Tea and Chat'.

All students were encouraged to spend time socialising with each other to get to know each other better. Students also chose to participate in activities that would make them feel good.

Students worked on expressing what their positive qualities are, sharing positive qualities about themselves and each other. From this activity each student had a list of special attributes about themselves.

Students communicated that completing this activity with their friends made them feel good inside and very happy about who they are.

It was great to see so many positive qualities being recognised amongst our students. We are very proud to have such a kind and supportive group of young adults at our College.



# Work Related Learning

## Enterprise

Planning has already started for our annual stall at the Bromsgrove Christmas Market!

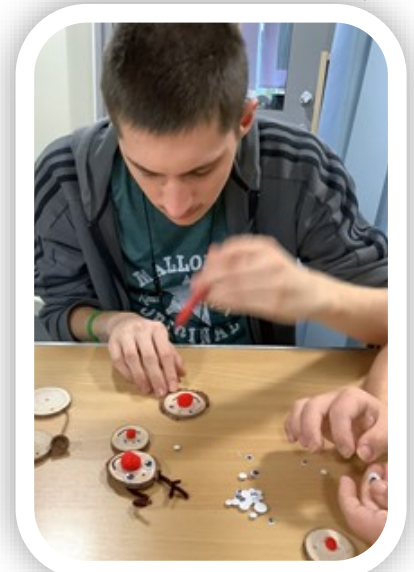
During Enterprise lessons students have been working really well to create craft items - and they are looking great!

Not only have the students been crafting, they have also been using their maths and thinking skills to create shopping lists for craft materials, working out pricing and counting sweets and chocolates.

Our Chadsgrove College Christmas stall will be in Bromsgrove town centre on Friday 17th November. Students will be working on the stall, selling their wonderful craft items and singing and signing some Christmas songs between 11.00am - 2:30pm on the day.

If you are able to make it we would love to see you at our stall. There will be plenty of carefully crafted Christmas items on sale and you're guaranteed service with a smile!

If you've any spare craft items that you would be happy to donate to our College please let us know - the more items we can sell, the more money Students will make. All monies raised goes straight back into the student enterprise fund to help pay for future projects. Students also use the money made to spend on days out, activities or even a nice meal somewhere of their choice.





## Staff Training

### Inset Days

We pride ourselves on our comprehensive and purposeful training programme developed to ensure our staff have the relevant specialist knowledge and expertise to support the deliverance of our curriculum.

We are passionate about investing in all our staff so that our students receive the very best experiences and opportunities whilst at College.

One of the training sessions staff have participated in this year was a 'Visually Impaired Condition Specific-simspecs Tasks and Habilitation Course'.

As part of the course, the staff took part in different activities and were introduced to a variety of kitchen gadgets which aid independent living skills for our students. Staff discovered new apps such as 'Connect 4' a blindfold game provided as a service to the visually impaired community and 'Seeing AI', which is a talking camera for the visually impaired.

Staff thoroughly enjoyed this training and have already put their new found knowledge in to practice.



# Independent Living Skills

## Online Safety

### Online Safety

Keeping safe online has been an area of focus this half term. Students have been learning that people online are not always who they say they are. We all took turns pretending to be other people.



Even Ms Rattley made an appearance online. Students quickly worked out it was in fact someone pretending to be her as she doesn't even have a Facebook account. It's a good job students worked this out quickly as some staff members were getting their bags and going home!



Hi everyone,

You can have the rest of the day off!



## Fantastic Fundraisers

### Kevin Hatch

A massive thanks to Kevin Hatch who so far has raised an incredible **£12,849** to improve the outdoor facilities at Chadsgrove. He has crowdfunded this by challenging himself to a hike of a lifetime up Mount Everest. You can find out more through Kevin's [JustGiving](#) Page.

If you could measure how grateful we are, we're pretty certain it would be at least as tall as the mountain!

Through his work at Severn Trent, Kevin has very kindly helped to improve our outdoor areas for us. Earlier this year he volunteered this time to dig up our old garden for us ready for the transformation to take place. We're very grateful for Kevin's continued support and are very proud of this huge achievement. Well done Kev!



### Mary Weager

Jo (our OT), is part of a running club along with a lovely lady called Mary. Mary turned 70 in June and to celebrate she decided to run a marathon (as you do!) and wanted to raise money for 7 different charities - one for each decade of her life.

Jo suggested Chadsgrove College as a potential worthy charity to raise money for and Mary fabulously agreed!

Last month Mary ran her marathon around Worcester and completed it in a total of 6 hours and 49 minutes. We now have great pleasure in confirming that Mary raised a fantastic **£300.00** for our College. Well done and thank you, Mary!





# Dates for your Diary

27th Oct - College closes for half term

6th Nov - College Closed, INSET Day

7th Nov - College re-opens

7th-10th Nov - Parliament Week

13th-17th Nov - Maths & Thinking Skills Week

14th Nov - Diabetes Awareness Day, student wear blue

15th Nov - Ambassadors Meeting

17th Nov - Student enterprise at Bromsgrove Christmas Market, please come and support us.

30th Nov - Student Voice Parliament

12th Dec - Enrichment Day, Christmas Around the World

12th Dec - Link Project Christmas Disco

18th Dec - Christmas meal at the Swan

19th Dec - Parent Carer/Advocate Christmas Celebration Event

20th Dec - College Christmas Dinner Day

22nd Dec - Chadsgrove Community Christmas Disco

22nd Dec - College closes for Christmas Holidays

## Happy Half Term