



Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College

Newsletter Spring 2



Thank you to the Women's Institute for the lovely donation of crème eggs in the beautifully knitted chicks shown above!

As we reach the end of term and prepare to break for Easter, we wanted to take a moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of our students, parent carers, advocates and staff.

While we pause to celebrate the achievements and progress made this term, let us also take this opportunity to reflect on the importance of rest, rejuvenation, and spending quality time with loved ones during the upcoming Easter break. May it be a time of relaxation, joy, and renewal for all.

Once again, thank you to our incredible students, parent carers, advocates and staff for your continued support and collaboration. We look forward to continuing our journey together in the Summer term ahead.

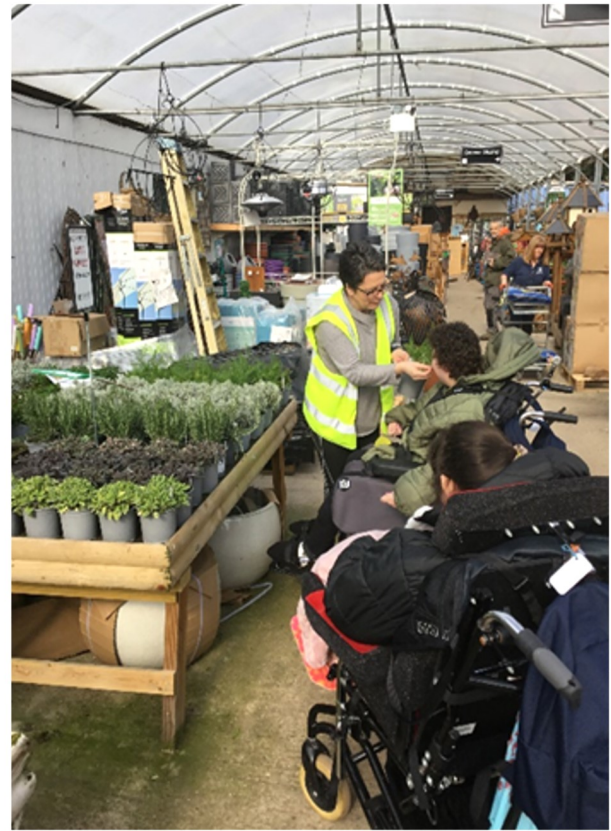
Happy Easter!

Explorer Pathway

During their community visits student from the Explorers Pathway collected a very generous donation from Morrisons for the Easter raffle.

They met Jim Weaver, the Community Champion at the Bromsgrove store, who spoke with students before giving us some very delicious prizes.

We have also been supporting our local garden centres buying flowers and herbs to enhance our new College garden. Students have chosen their favourite colour plants to fill our sensory wall planter and 'sniffed out' the best smelling herbs for our herb ladder.



Students have had a busy half term!

Visits to our local care providers took place supporting the transitions of students into further destinations.



Community and Relationships

Seeker Pathway

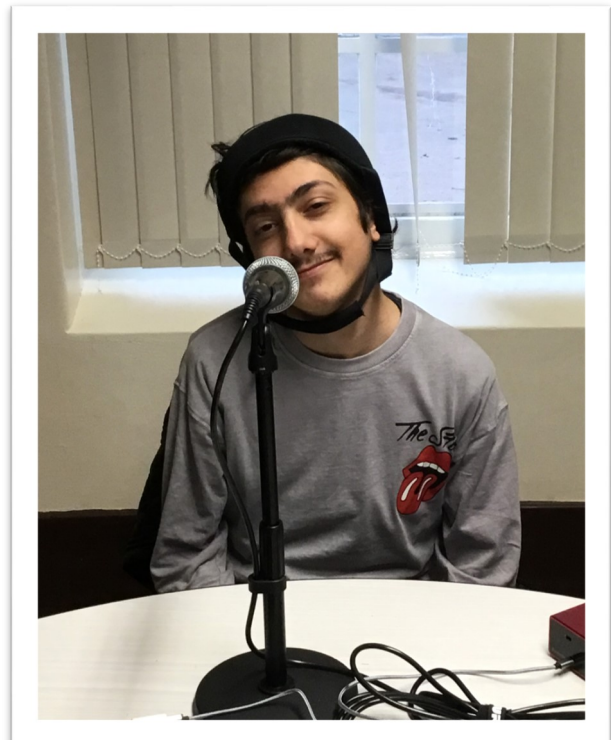
Students from our Seekers Pathway have been busy in the community this half term. They have been practicing their independent living skills and continuing to develop work skills.

They have created and used visual shopping lists to select and buy tuck shop items to sell.

Students also visited 'Where Next?', a social setting at Sernal Garden centre in Studley. Here students found undiscovered talents including star 'bug spotter' and chief 'stock labeller!'

Students have also taken part in Podcasts at 'We Love Carers'.

Students displayed excellent work all round and have enjoyed practicing their social skills and meeting new people in and around the community.



Speech and Language Therapy

One of the highlights of this half-term has been the communication sessions with the Speech and Language Therapists.

Students have enjoyed taking part in these sessions, using various means of communication to make choices.

Students have explored using switches, symbols, eye pointing and expressions to make choices on their personal preferences and refine their communication skills.

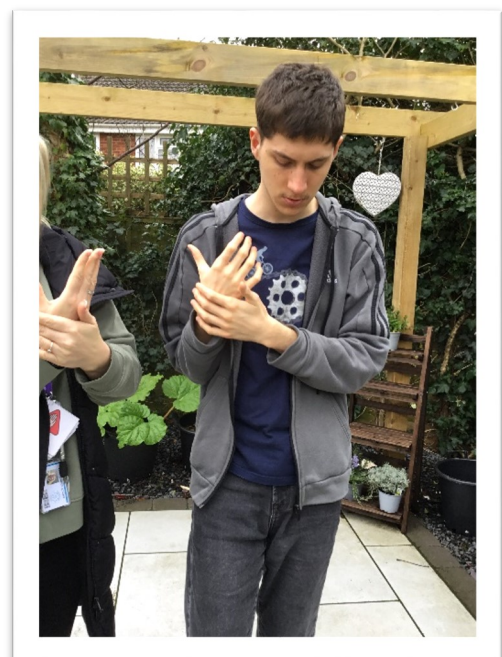


Sign of the Half Term

Students have chosen 'Spring' for sign of the half-term.

Students learnt this sign when discussing the meaning of Holi, which is the 'Festival of Colours' or the 'Festival of Spring'. Holi celebrates the coming of the new season as well as the triumph of good over evil.

We have also been using the sign to celebrate the first day of Spring and discussing what we are looking forward to. Students have said they are looking forward to nicer weather, sunshine, flowers and the Easter holidays.



During this half-term, students engaged in student-led intensive interaction, where they mirrored each other's movements and sounds in dance, yoga, and relaxation sessions.

They took turns being both participants and observers, connecting with their peers on a deeper level.

In dance, they synchronised movements to create choreographies celebrating diversity.



Yoga sessions focused on linking mind, body and spirit through poses guided by peers. Relaxation sessions provided a calming environment for guided meditation and visualisation.

Overall, this experience helped students embrace their uniqueness and build a community of mutual respect and acceptance through shared experiences.

Health and Well-Being Day

Students joined pupils from Chadsgrove School to celebrate Health & Well-being Day.

Symbolising the act of kindness, school pupils from 10US and students from the Seeker Pathway from College made gifts to exchange with each other.



At the same time, students from the Explorer Pathway worked together with visitors from Wyre Forest School on a sensory session making chocolate Easter nest cakes.

Students from both pathways joined in a lovely session in the Multisensory Room where they led story massage for school pupils of 4LS and in return the pupils from 4LS shared their favourite songs.

Independent Living Skills

Looking after My Environment

Students have been continuing to learn and progress with the topic "Taking Care of my Environment"

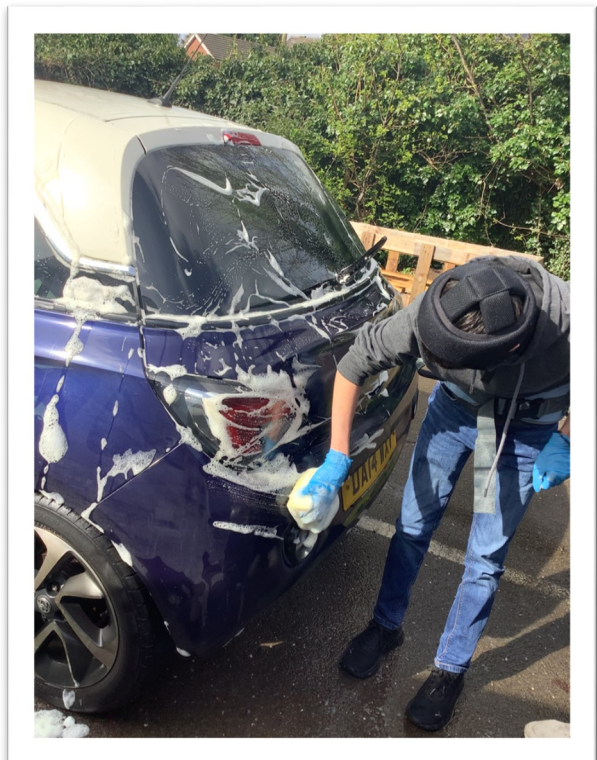
Students have worked as a team to help clear 'The Lodge' ready for the floor to be treated.



Students have practiced their bed making skills, washing up and cleaning windows.

To end the half term students rolled up their sleeves and worked in pairs to wash cars.

We had lots of fun during this lesson and the sun was shining.



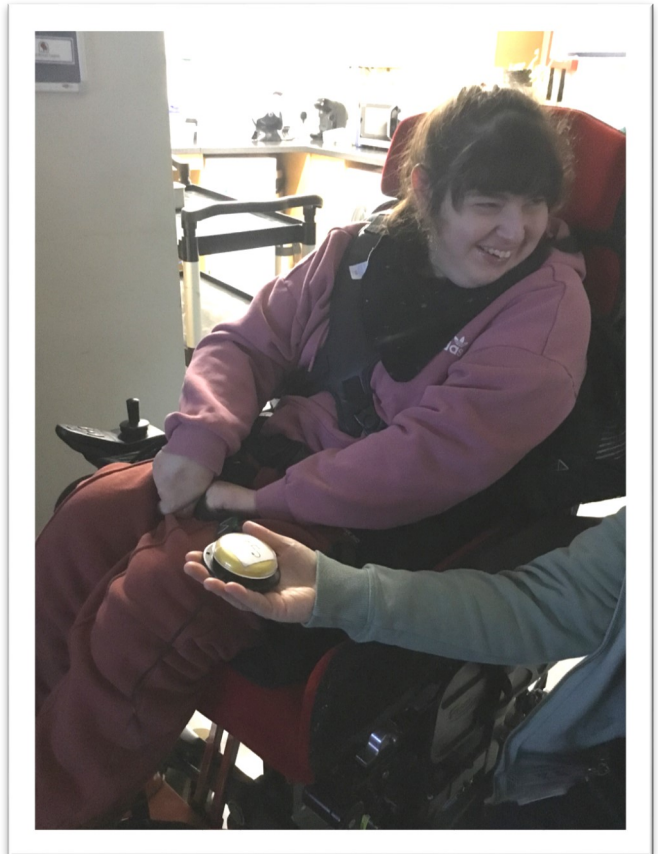
Maths & Thinking Skills

During recent sessions, students had fun exploring cause and effect using Eyegaze, lights, switches and music.

They experimented with different switches, watching how lights turned on and music played in response. Through these hands-on activities, students learned how their actions could change their environment.

Students felt empowered as they realised they could control what happened around them.

This experience helped them understand cause and effect in a tangible way, fostering both cognitive development and a sense of wonder about the world.



Work Related Learning

Enterprise

This half term we created fantastic Easter Hampers to raffle. Students were involved every step of the way from creating advertisement posters, handing out letters to local shops, collecting donations, packaging the hampers and drawing the raffle winners in our Student Ambassadors meeting.

Thank you to families, members of staff and companies who donated. It is with thanks to so many donations we raised £209.25!

Monies raised will be added to our enterprise fund for students to spend on experiences, day trips and resources of their choice. If any families have any suggestions or ideas that your young person may be interested in or talk about at home, please do let us know.

Well done to Tom who won our prize hamper!

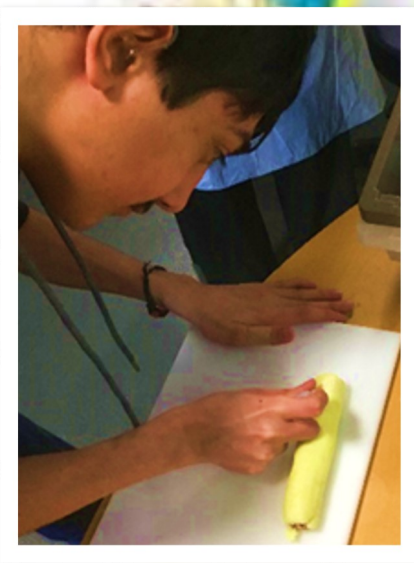


Enrichment Day

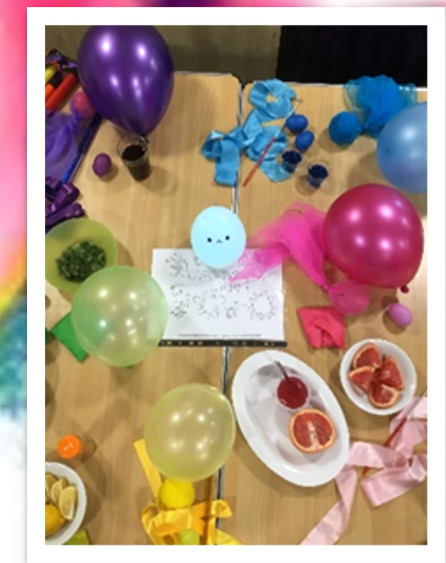
March 2024 – Holi Festival

For this terms enrichment, students explored the wonderful Hindu festival of colour with dance, a sensory story, marble painting and making traditional sweets. It was enjoyed by students and staff alike!

Holi, known as the Festival of Colours, is a vibrant and joyous celebration observed by Hindus around the world. It marks the arrival of spring and the triumph of good over evil. During Holi, people come together to play with coloured powders, spraying each other with water and engaging in lively music and dance. It's a time for merriment and unity, where social barriers are temporarily forgotten as people of all ages and backgrounds join in the festivities. Holi exemplifies the spirit of renewal, friendship, and the celebration of life's colourful moments.



Holi
FESTIVAL



Lunch Clubs

During lunch times, our students have a rota of different activities to take part in. On Tuesdays, a firm favourite is Wii Sports Bowling club. Seekers and Explorers team up and enjoy some friendly competition.



This week our winning team was Fern and Theo who secured an all-time college record top score of 214 points! They bowled an incredible 7 strikes! Amazing work Fern and Theo!

Wii Sports Bowling isn't just a game; it's a platform that offers numerous benefits to our students. Here's a glimpse into why this virtual bowling experience can be an excellent addition to any student's routine:

- **Physical Activity:** In an era where screen time dominates, Wii Sports Bowling offers a fun way for students to engage in physical activity. By mimicking the bowling motion with the Wii Remote promoting movement.
- **Hand-Eye Coordination:** Mastering Wii Sports Bowling requires precise movements and coordination between hand movements and what's happening on the screen. This enhances hand-eye coordination, a skill crucial for various activities both in and out of college.
- **Social Interaction:** Wii Sports Bowling can be a social activity, whether it's playing with friends, family, or in an educational setting. It encourages communication, teamwork, and friendly competition, fostering social skills vital for students' development.
- **Stress Relief:** Life can be stressful, but gaming can offer a healthy outlet. Wii Sports Bowling provides a way for students to unwind and de-stress in a safe and enjoyable environment.
- **Inclusivity:** Wii Sports Bowling is inclusive to all, allowing students of all skill levels and physical capabilities to participate and enjoy themselves.
- **Cognitive Benefits:** Engaging in virtual bowling involves strategic thinking, planning, and problem-solving, especially as players aim for strikes and spares. These cognitive challenges can help sharpen students' minds and improve their concentration skills.



Student of the Term

Dalcie

Community and Relationships

For building positive relationships with staff and peers and demonstrating enthusiasm, curiosity and increased interest when working with others.



Charities

Celebrating Others

This term students and staff have been raising awareness by celebrating and embracing the diversity and uniqueness of others.

This week we have worn bright colours in recognition of Neurodiversity Week and odd socks to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day.



Fundraising Focus

Good news... We've received further pledges of £4,000.00 towards our electric WAV (Wheelchair Assisted Vehicle)! This takes our total so far to £49,000.00 to purchase a vehicle.

Students have chosen the Vauxhall e-Vivaro as their preferred wheelchair accessible vehicle. We are busy securing quotes and sourcing availability of the vehicle as they are in high demand at the moment. The next decision for students will be to choose which colour they would like it to be!

See overleaf for more information about the research students have been doing regarding our new WAV....

Thank you to all our donors!

Fundraising Focus

To celebrate **International Wheelchair Day** on 1st March, we arranged for an electric 'wheelchair accessible vehicle' (WAV) to visit our College to support student research into the different types of WAV available.

Over the last year we have been working hard to raise enough funds to purchase our very own College WAV. The new vehicle will support additional work related learning opportunities and provide greater community access enabling our students to further develop their independent living skills - all this whilst being kinder to the environment!



The WAV visit forms part of student research into different kinds of WAV's. A number of different wheelchairs were tested to ensure the vehicle met a variety of student needs. The model trialed during the visit was a Mercedes, whilst this particular vehicle is unfortunately out of our price range, the wheelchair accessible ramp would be the same mechanism used in most other available WAVs.

Students and staff were very impressed with the way the vehicle had been adapted to facilitate wheelchairs.

We're looking forward to getting our very own College WAV soon!





Useful Information

Upcoming Charity Awareness Days

- 13th to 17th May— Mental Health Awareness Week

Important College Dates for your Diary

- Monday 8th April - College re-opens to students
- Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday, College closed
- Tuesday 7th May - INSET day, College closed to students
- Wednesday 8th May - College re-opens to students
- Friday 17th May - Enrichment Day (Prevent)
- Friday 17th May - Ambassadors Meeting
- Monday 27th May - 31st May—Half Term, College closed

Useful Information

Community Services Directory - Community Directory for details and information about organisations e.g. charities, community groups and businesses local to you and based on your needs: [SearchForHelp \(worcestershire.gov.uk\)](https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/searchforhelp)

Cost of Living Information – Organisations and information providing help with the cost of living: [Cost of living support | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Household Support – Information about help with energy costs, food and water bills: [Household Support Fund | Worcestershire County Council](#)



**Youth Board
volunteers needed**

Aged 14-25 and living or studying in Herefordshire or Worcestershire?

Help shape the way NHS services are delivered, whilst also gaining experience and skills with training.

Sign up here:
www.hacw.nhs.uk/youth-board



Happy Easter!