



Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College

Newsletter Spring Term 2 - 2025



A Term of Sunshine, Skills & Celebration!

As we head into the Easter break, students have enjoyed a jam-packed half term filled with sunshine, sensory exploration and skill-building opportunities. From outdoor physio sessions and parachute games to indulgent foot spas and beauty therapy, there's been something for everyone! We have welcomed STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) ambassadors, visited local day centre provisions, explored healthy lifestyles, and celebrated special days including World Autism Day and Red Nose Day in style.

With independence at the heart of everything we do, students have made fantastic progress across English, Maths, Thinking Skills and more. Whether learning new signs to songs for our upcoming VE Day Event, driving their power chairs with confidence, or giving relaxing Indian Head massages.

It's been a half term full of energy, learning, and community spirit. Have a wonderful Easter break – we can't wait to see what the summer term brings!

Maths & Thinking Skills

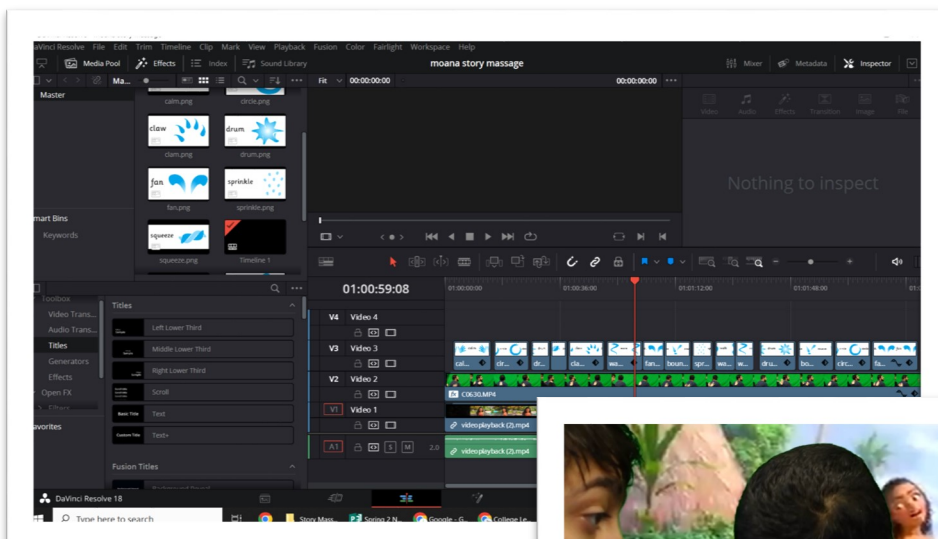
Learning Through Creativity and Choice

On Thursday's students have continued working collaboratively on a digital story massage project. Using songs like *"How Far I'll Go"* from Moana and *"Three Little Birds"* by Bob Marley, students matched story massage symbols to the lyrics, building confidence in sequencing, decision-making, and communication. Once planned, students took part in green screen video recordings, performing the massage moves or signing key lyrics. These videos were then edited together as a group with support, giving students a sense of pride and ownership in their finished work.

On Fridays, the focus has been on cause and effect, choice-making and sensory interaction through our music choice sessions. Using switches, VOCA devices and EyeGaze, students explored playlists on YouTube, made requests, and controlled lights and sounds. Particular highlights included Gashow repeatedly selecting her favourite songs using switches and VOCA, and Sophie demonstrating increased independence with her switch to activate light effects. Holly has also made great strides in independently using the squeeze switch to turn on the disco lights.

Across both days, students have shown fantastic progress towards their personalised learning goals, particularly around communication, independence, and confidence. The sessions have been a joyful mix of technology, creativity, and self-expression — and we can't wait to continue

this journey next term.



Outdoor Wellbeing and Physiotherapy

Thanks to the glorious weather we've been enjoying recently, students have had the fantastic opportunity to do their exercise sessions outdoors. We are very fortunate to have access to Chadsgrove School's track, which has recently been painted with colourful animals, numbers, and a variety of exercises.

Time out of chairs is incredibly valuable for our students. Those who use standers, walkers, or the Acheeva bed have all had the chance to enjoy this time outdoors. Many of our lessons that support students' health and wellbeing have also been taken outside, making the most of the lovely weather.

Both students and staff have thoroughly enjoyed getting outside and taking part in these sessions in the fresh air



Students have been smashing through their physiotherapy targets, showing incredible dedication and hard work in working towards their end-of-year goals.

Students alternate their sessions in the Hydrotherapy pool between physiotherapy and Liquid Listening. The benefits of Liquid Listening have been remarkable, and we are seeing fantastic progress from all students involved.



Outdoor Wellbeing and Physiotherapy

One of the students' favourite outdoor activities is the parachute. Each week, we try something new—using different genres of music, whether fast or slow, to suit the mood. We incorporate a wide range of objects such as scarves, balls, pompoms, and balloons, making each session both fun and engaging. The possibilities are endless, and the students love it!



Work Related Learning

STEM Ambassador Visit

During a recent Work Related Learning session, students were visited by Nicola, an Engineer from [Jacobs](#). Students had prepared a range of thoughtful questions to ask, including “What is your job?” and the all-important “What is your favourite film?”

Nicola spent the afternoon with the group exploring the topic of flood prevention. Using materials such as sand, water, and clay, students investigated different methods and possibilities and had great fun in the process!

It was an inspiring and hands-on session that brought real-world STEM learning to life.



Easter Raffle

Thanks to community and staff donations for our Easter Raffle, students have spent time in the community collecting these donations. Donations came from local businesses to create wonderful Easter hampers!



Beauty therapy sessions

Students have been developing their skills in Beauty Therapy by learning how to follow instructions carefully and adhere to health and safety regulations to carry out all the steps of a manicure.

They have taken part in discussions around consultation forms, contraindications, and aftercare advice, showing a strong understanding of the professional requirements within the beauty industry. Their hard work and dedication have paid off, resulting in some truly wonderful treatments being delivered to their clients.

The group is now focusing on Indian Head Massage, also known as *Champissage*. This technique involves massaging acupressure points on the head, neck, and shoulders to relieve tension, improve circulation, and promote overall wellbeing.

We hope to invite some guests in soon to practise our new skills and showcase the progress that students have made.



Community

Explorers – Day Service Visits

This half term, students on the Explorers Pathway have begun visiting some of our local day centre providers, including Spectrum Days in Droitwich and The Resource Centre in Kidderminster.

During these visits, students have taken part in a variety of engaging activities such as music and singing performances, bingo, planting up planters and parachute games. These experiences provide fantastic opportunities for students to explore potential future placements, support those with dual placements, reconnect with former students, and further strengthen the links between college and our students' future destinations.

We look forward to continuing these valuable visits after the holidays.



Explorers Pathway

This half term in English and Communication, students on the Explorers Pathway have thoroughly enjoyed expressing their preferences through a total communication approach while engaging in activities focused on feeling good and leading a healthy lifestyle.

Pupils were offered a range of options, including facials, hand massages, hair styling, sensory stories, and sensory song massages. These activities provided opportunities for relaxation, engagement, and communication in a way that suited each individual.

With spring finally in the air, students have also taken part in walks around the Easter-themed sensory garden. They enjoyed choosing decorative pieces they liked the sound, feel, or appearance of, making the most of the seasonal atmosphere through exploration and choice-making.



Sign-along – Seekers Pathway

Students from the Seekers Pathway have been working hard on learning signs from their workbooks. A key focus this term has been learning signs to support their morning routine, including different feelings such as *happy*, *sad*, *calm*, and *tired*.

The students have been actively using these signs throughout the college day, which has helped to develop and enhance their communication skills in a meaningful and practical way.

They have also been learning new songs to sign along to, in preparation for their performance at The Cosy Café VE Day celebration. Students have been busy rehearsing *We'll Meet Again*, *The White Cliffs of Dover*, and *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree*, ready to impress with both their signing and singing.

Sign of the Month



Feeling/Emotion

Goodbye to the 'L' Plates!

A huge congratulations to Gashow and Dylan, who have recently passed their Wheelchair Driving Assessments with flying colours!



Both students are now able to access community trips in their powered wheelchairs, a fantastic achievement that will further support their independence and confidence in everyday life.

Well done, Gashow and Dylan – we are all so proud of you!

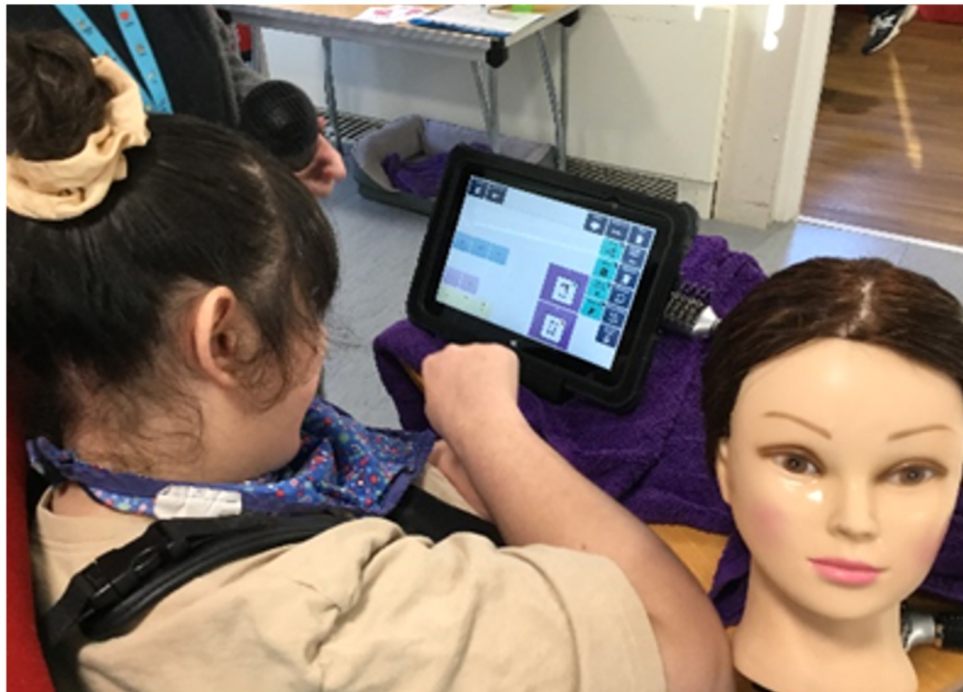


Independent Living Skills

Explorers Pathway

Students from the Explorers Pathway have really enjoyed using the foot spas as part of their self-care routines. They independently used switches to make choices, actively engaging in the process and taking ownership of their own wellbeing.

It was a lovely, relaxing experience that supported both independence and sensory exploration.



Independent Living Skills

Explorers Stamp Appeal



As part of Independent Living Skills we have been learning



about recycling. Did you know that you can recycle stamps?



We are collecting used stamps and plan to donate them

RNIB

See differently

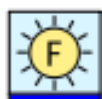
to the RNIB.



For every Kilogramme donated the RNIB will receive £20.



Please support us by sending used stamps into college by



27th



2025

Friday

27th

June

2025.

Stamp appeal

R N I B

See differently



RNIB stands for The Royal Institution for



Blind



People.

They are



a

UK

based



charity

that support



people

with



sight

loss



and

campaign

for a more



accessible



society.

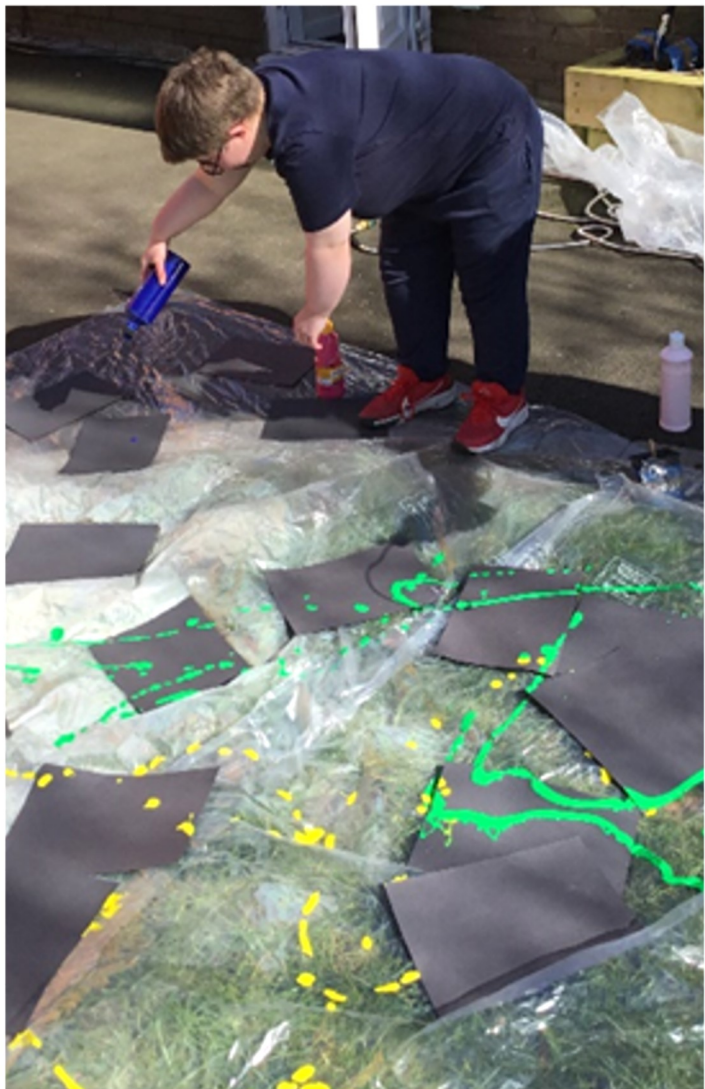
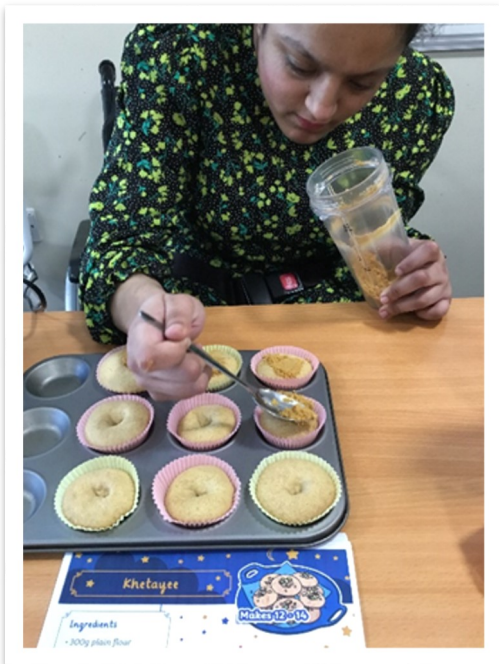
Enrichment Day

Eid al-Fitr

To celebrate Eid al-Fitr, students took part in a special Enrichment Day full of learning, sharing, and fun.

In the morning, one of our students gave a lovely talk about how she and her family celebrate Eid at home. She spoke about the delicious food they enjoy, the special clothes they wear, and the presents they exchange. Inspired by her experience, we then made a batch of traditional Eid biscuits called *Khetayee*. Students also used paint to represent the fireworks signifying the end of Ramadan and the breaking of the fast.

We rounded off the day with some lively dancing to music celebrating Eid, creating a joyful and inclusive atmosphere for everyone involved.



Charity Days

On 2nd April, staff and students were invited to wear blue in celebration of World Autism Day. The day was marked with a range of blue-themed activities, including a fun-filled parachute session in the garden



On 21st March we celebrated Red Nose Day by dressing in red to show our support for this fantastic cause.

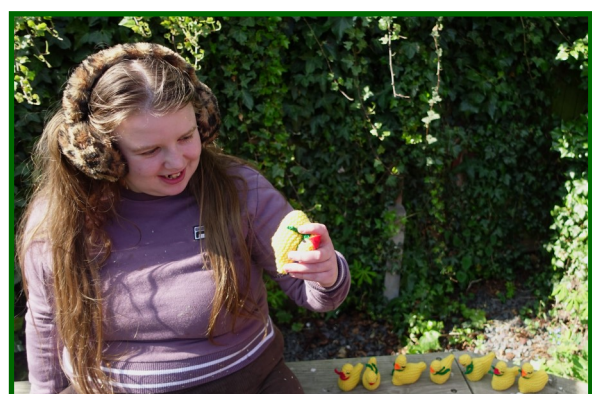


A big thank you to all staff and students for helping to raise awareness and for your generous donations!

Charity Days



Thank you to the Linda Babb, Gemma Babb and Millie for the lovely donation of crème eggs in the beautifully knitted chicks shown above! Shannan counted them all out for the students at college.



NATSPEC Innovation Award



Exciting News!

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we have won a prestigious Natspec Award for our **'Innovative Approach to Mental Health and Wellbeing'**. This recognition means so much to us as it reflects our unwavering commitment to fostering a healthy and supportive environment for our students to thrive.



We proudly dedicate this award to our amazing students who have played an integral role throughout in helping us to design and implement impactful Sound Therapy and Musical Hydrotherapy to support better mental health and wellbeing.

We would like to say a big congratulations to all of the shortlisted colleges – it's great to see so many incredible initiatives which are having outstanding impacts on the lives of so many young people with disabilities.

We are immensely proud of this award and all that it represents.



Ellie our Wellbeing Ambassador and Dylan, who benefits from Liquid Listening, proudly show off the trophy.





STUDLEY OPERATIC SOCIETY'S THE LITTLE MERMAID

Congratulations to our Tutor Claire who this week has been performing at the Palace Theatre with the Studley Operatic Society.

Claire performs many parts during the performance including a jelly fish, the chef, and an underwater cave creature.

College staff have been to support Claire and have said this is a fantastic show with an incredibly talented cast, the characters embraced their roles and delivered a West End worthy performance. This show is suitable for all and runs until Saturday 12th April. Tickets are still available for Saturdays performances. [Click here to book tickets.](#)





Dates for your Diary

Spring Term 2025

- ◆ Monday 14th April—Friday 25th April: College closed - Easter holidays

Summer Term 2025

- ◆ Monday 28th April: College reopens to students for Summer Term
- ◆ Monday 5th May: College closed to students - Bank Holiday
- ◆ Tuesday 6th May: College closed to students - INSET day
- ◆ Thursday 8th May: Student Parliament
- ◆ Wednesday 14th May: Student Ambassadors Meeting
- ◆ Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May: College closed to students - Half Term
- ◆ Monday 2nd June: College reopens to students
- ◆ Monday 23rd June: Student Ambassadors Meeting
- ◆ Monday 30th June: College closed to students - INSET day
- ◆ Tuesday 8th July: Enrichment Day
- ◆ Monday 14th July, 6.30pm-8.30pm: Leavers' and Achievement Event (Catshill Social Club)
- ◆ Wednesday 16th July: Students' last day in College

Useful Information

Dates have been sent out for Year 1 & 2 students' Annual Reviews which are scheduled to take place in June & July.

Happy Easter!

