



CHADSGROVE SPECIALIST COLLEGE

AUTUMN 1 NEWSLETTER 2025

WELCOME

A huge welcome to all our new students who have made a fantastic start to the term, learning about College life, their new timetables and meeting new friends. It has been wonderful to see how quickly they have become part of the Chadsgrove College family already.



MEET OUR NEW LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

We are also delighted to welcome new members of staff to our College...

Jane, Andrew, and Charlotte have joined our Learning Support Assistant team!



Andy



Charlotte



Jane

Other staffing news...

Debbie has joined our Office Admin team and has been busy answering the phone and supporting families with College related admin.

Staff have also had a busy start to the term with their professional development, completing training in medical procedures, manual handling, first aid and Liquid Listening. It has been a great start to the academic year for everyone!

We are also pleased to announce that Pete Sugg is joining our Directors Board and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience as our new Safeguarding Director.

STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Our first Ambassador meeting of the year was a great success, with lots of thought-provoking ideas from our new team. During the meeting, students discussed how to increase awareness of the College through social media, new fundraising opportunities, and ways to improve resources and facilities.

A major goal this year is to raise enough money to purchase a college minibus, which would help us take even more students into the community for learning and enterprise opportunities. Roles were voted for by the students, including The Arts, Communication, Health & Safety, Work & Volunteering, Enterprise, Wellbeing and Community Ambassadors. We are incredibly proud of our new Chair, Vice-Chairs and all those who have taken on leadership roles.

New Roles for this year, as voted by the students:

The Arts Ambassador – IT

Communication Ambassador – GA (Explorers) EB (Seekers)

Peer Mentor – DS (Explorers) EB (Seekers)

Health and Safety Ambassador – KAI

Work and Volunteering Ambassador – TC

Enterprise Ambassador – HLM

Wellbeing Ambassador – BG

Community Ambassador – DP

Chair – EB

Vice Chair – KAI and DP



COMMUNICATION (SEEKERS)

This term, students have been getting an early start with preparations for their Christmas 'Sing and Sign' performances. We kick off this year's tour on Friday 21st November at the Bromsgrove Christmas Market. Students have chosen new songs and started learning the signs with enthusiasm and dedication.

All students have worked incredibly hard and are looking forward to performing at a range of community events, including local care homes, the Parents' Christmas Event and the Pensioners' Christmas Lunch.

It has been lovely to see their confidence and expression grow through music and signing.



COMMUNICATION (EXPLORERS)

During this half term, students and staff have enjoyed exploring rhythm and teamwork through the effective use of 'Boomwhackers'.

Boomwhackers are colourful, plastic, tuned percussion, hollow tubes which, once hit against each other, create playful musical tones. The tubes are varying lengths which when collectively played together can make a tuneful sound!

Students have used their preferred methods of communication - whether that be symbols, switches, gestures or body language to communicate clear choices about which songs they have wanted to play on the Boomwhackers.

A new addition to our morning routine has also been introduced – each day of the week now has a colour theme, with objects of reference for students to explore during the song of the day. This has become a fun and engaging way to support communication, sensory awareness and establish routine.



COMMUNITY

We have been excited to commence our community trips this half term. Staff have been busy organising paperwork and planning opportunities for students to take part in meaningful activities, including selling poppies, shopping for the College tuck shop and enterprise events, and collecting supplies for our upcoming Christmas projects.

Students have been keen to get out into the local community, meet new people and gain valuable experiences that build independent life skills and confidence for adulthood. We are grateful for our Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles which have helped make these experiences possible.

This year we are once again taking an active role in supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal and have been proudly promoted to the role of official distributors for the Catshill community.

Seeker's students have delivered several collection boxes around Catshill and nearby areas. This continues our prominent involvement in local causes, following our VE Day 80 celebrations held at the Cozy Café earlier this year. Students have developed new skills, demonstrated great teamwork, confidence and community spirit while helping such an important cause.



You can read more about our involvement in this years Poppy Appeal in an article published in the [Bromsgrove Standard](#).

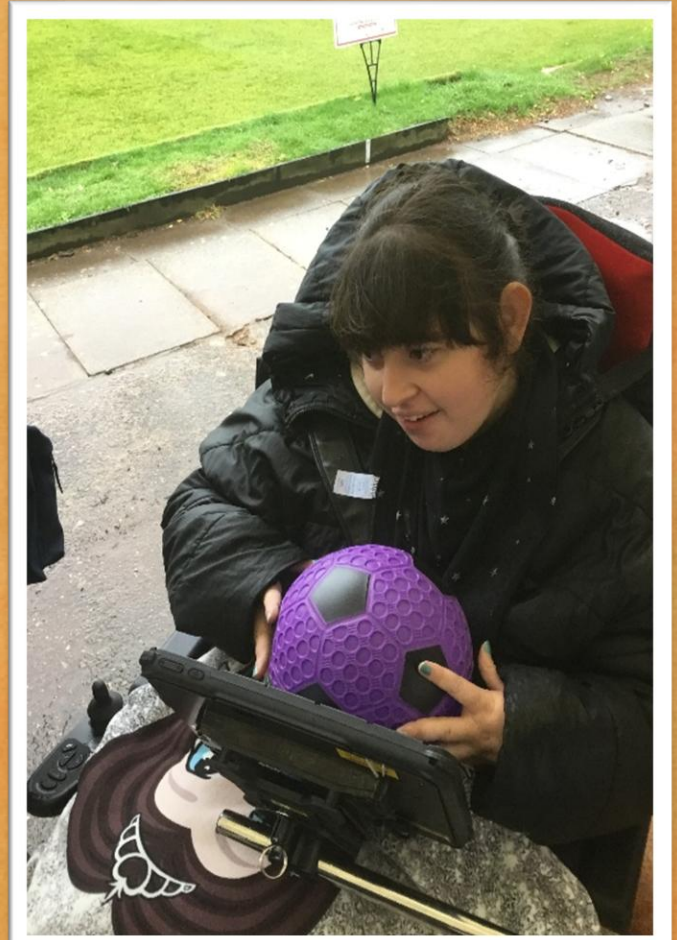
CET × KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS FC – PAN DISABILITY PROJECT

On Friday 3rd October, Thyo and Gashow visited Kidderminster Harriers FC's 'Centre of Sporting Excellence' to learn about the club's exciting plans to develop its disability football pathway.

As part of a College project, students were invited to share ideas and suggestions to help more young people with disabilities access football.

Everyone was inspired by the Harriers' inclusive vision, and we look forward to seeing how their plans evolve.

For more information, families can visit the Harriers' official website to learn about their disability football programme via this link: [Disability Football - Official Website of the Harriers - Kidderminster Harriers FC](#)



CHARITIES

On 10th October, staff and students joined together to celebrate 'World Mental Health Day' by wearing yellow.

The simple act of adding a splash of colour symbolised unity and support for mental wellbeing.

It was a cheerful day that encouraged conversation, awareness and compassion throughout the college community.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped spread positivity and understanding.



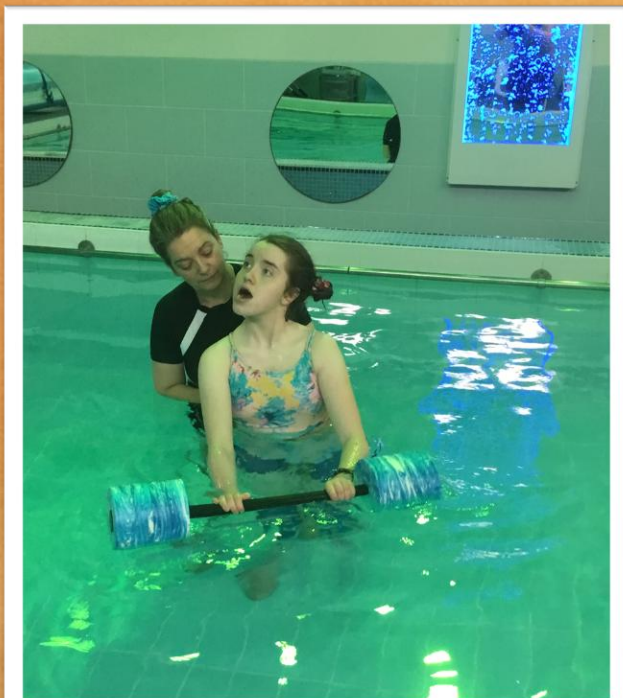
HEALTH

This half term, students have enjoyed a series of physical development activities led by our Physiotherapist, Kirsty.

Kirsty has assessed students in their walkers and supported them to work towards individual physical targets through dance, interactive parachute activities and movement games.

The sessions have been a great success, helping students build strength, flexibility and confidence through movement and fun.

Students have also been working hard during their Hydrotherapy sessions and have been benefitting from the amazing Liquid Listening technology within the pool.



DANCE

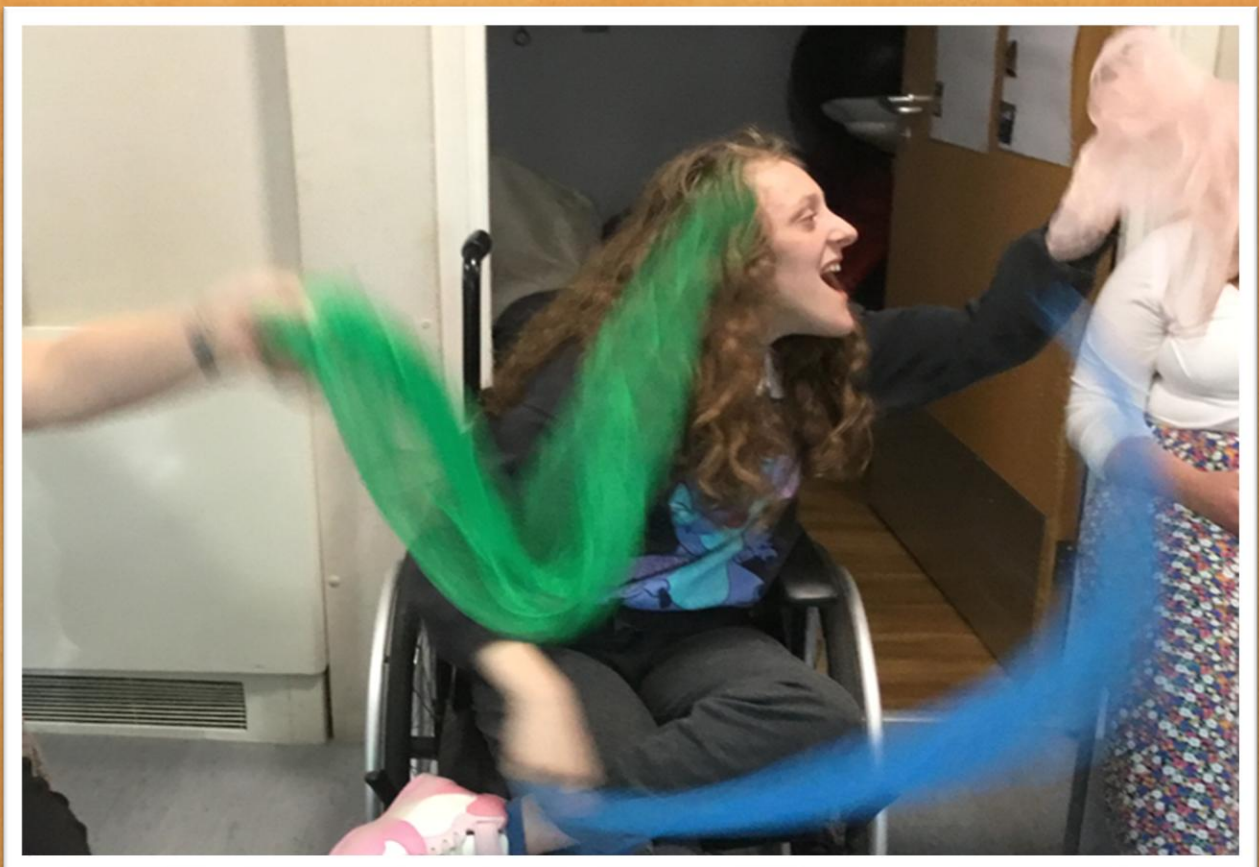
This term, both Seekers and Explorers students have taken part in dance sessions focusing on rhythm, coordination and creativity.

Seekers have explored the different elements of a dance session, from warm-ups and learning simple choreography, to using imagination in creating their own movements.

Explorers have enjoyed moving to music using scarves, pom-poms and the parachute to make leaves, feathers and balloons dance in the air.

Both groups have also experienced 'Brain Dance' warm-ups, helping to activate body awareness and stimulate movement connections.

Halloween and Christmas routines are already being planned!



INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS (ILS)

Through our Independent Living Skills sessions, students have explored personal care routines and hygiene in practical, sensory ways.

Explorers have taken part in 'Sensology' sessions, exploring items such as sponges, hairbrushes and body products, while Seekers have been focusing on morning routines, hygiene products and oral care sequences.

Using 'Communicate in Print', students created personalised hygiene shopping lists to support decision-making and independence. These sessions have encouraged awareness, daily routines and positive engagement with personal care.



WELLBEING

This term in Wellbeing, students have embraced the Autumn weather by taking their learning outdoors.

Seekers have explored our College garden, collecting natural items linked to the senses – from the smell of herbs to the sound and feel of crisp Autumnal leaves.

Explorers have engaged with similar sensory experiences, using outdoor exploration to promote calm, communication and emotional regulation.

These sessions have been a refreshing way to connect with nature while promoting mindfulness and wellbeing and utilising our wonderful, year round outdoor learning space.



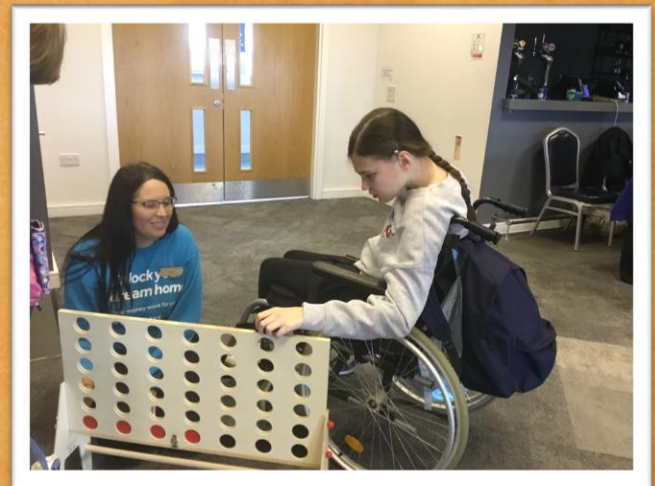
WORK RELATED LEARNING

Students from our Seekers pathway attended the 'Life Beyond School' event at Sixways Stadium in Worcester this term.

Students met with stallholders from specialist colleges, day centres and support organisations, discussing future opportunities and services for young adults with disabilities.

Our students also gained hands-on experience helping at the Chadsgrove College stand, developing communication, teamwork and social interaction skills.

Their welcoming attitude and enthusiasm made us all very proud.



KEEP ON MOVING

This half term, students attended their first Keep on Moving session of the academic year at Bromsgrove Leisure Centre.

This community programme encourages adults with disabilities to stay active and social.

Students interacted positively with both familiar and new faces, showing great enthusiasm during Boccia games and group activities.

Everyone enjoyed the session and are already looking forward to returning after the October holidays.



MATHS AND THINKING SKILLS

This half term, both Seekers and Explorers students have developed their Maths and Thinking Skills through creative and sensory experiences.

Seeker's students have begun work on a video project using a montage of songs by the band 'Oasis'. This is a collaborative piece focusing on individuality, hope, resilience, positivity and fun. Using signing and shared discussion, students have selected lyrics and gestures that represent the College group spirit. Filming and editing will continue next term as the project evolves into a finished performance.

Explorers have enjoyed 'The Autumn Forest' Sensory Story, using mist sprays, leaves and light effects alongside a collaboratively built Soundbeam set, that has been specifically developed for this project. Soundbeam is a technology that turns movement into sound. Students triggered Autumn sounds like wind and rustling leaves, developing cause-and-effect, understanding and expressive communication.



Important Dates

Monday October 27th	Half Term Week Starts
Friday 31st October	Half Term Week Ends
Monday 3rd November	College Opens for Students (10.00am)
Monday 10th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 21st November	Children in Need Day
Friday 21st November	Bromsgrove Christmas Market
Monday 24th November	Annual Review Meetings begin for new students
Monday 24th November	UK Parliament Week
Wednesday 26th November	Signalong Parent Carer Workshop
Monday 8th December	Christmas Meal at the Swan Inn
Monday 15th December	Christmas Panto at the Artrix
Tuesday 16th December	Families and Community Christmas Celebrations
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Panto at the Artrix
Friday 19th December	College closes for Christmas at 4.00pm
Monday 22nd December –	
Friday 2nd January	College Closed – Christmas Holidays
Monday 5th January	College closed to students – INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January	College reopens to students

Useful Information



Signalong
the
communication charity
charity no: 1039788



Signalong Parent Carer Workshop

An opportunity to learn the basic
skills of Signalong

DATE: Wednesday 26th November 2025

TIME: 9:30am-11:30am

VENUE: Chadsgrove School

Limited spaces available

Please book a place by emailing Rebecca Sabel:

rs291@chadsgrove.worcs.sch.uk

or phone:

01527 871511