



# COLLEGE

## Newsletter

Issue 11

October 2023

### Group 1

In our community visit our group have visited Go Wild in Hemel Hempstead. We have had the opportunity to explore the woods during our sensory walks. The learners loved this outdoor experience. We made a camp fire and enjoyed toasting our marshmallows and pop-corn. This was nicely finished with a creamy hot chocolate each week.

In therapeutic massage, we have been exploring items from the seaside. Each massage has been a wonderful opportunity for our learners to express themselves to carefully pick music all linked to a day at the seaside. The staff supported the learners and observed how responsive they were to touch, the objects of reference and the music. The learners use all methods of communication to make their preferences clear such as non-verbal cues; eye contact; switch devices and their body language.

In English, the learners have been learning how to develop their writing skills. We have been working hard to develop our fine motor and mark making skills. Our writing topic was all about letters and postcards. The learners used symbols to create letters to share information with loved ones about their college routines and community visits.

### Monthly LEARNER Award

#### Group 1 – Max

For excellent attendance

#### Group 2 – Holly

For having a positive attitude in college and trying new things

#### Group 3 – Daniela

For her enthusiasm for learning and giving everything a go!

#### Employee of the month:

**Naomi** - for her work at the St Elizabeth's Charity Shop



# Group 2

What an end to this half term! Group 2 have been busy in all topics, including PDBA (Personal Development, Behaviour and Attitudes), where the learners in every class celebrated Black History Month. In group 2, we focused on Michael Jordan and learnt about his life story. One of Michael's strengths is being part of a team so the learners carried out some team building activities and even designed their own Jordan trainers!

They have made great progress in current affairs and ICT. They have each developed a keen interest in learning about the local and worldwide news. In ICT, the learners have been using Google to find out information about different things, including information about their favourite singers.

Following our Walk to Lourdes campaign, everyone in the group has kept up the laps around the college, all in line with their Healthy Living and Well-being qualification. Amazing work group 2!



# Group 3

This term in Prevent in Black History month we have been learning about Michelle Obama and other black people who have changed our lives. We learnt about the scientist who created the machine that's used for cataract operations, the engineer who invented automatic doors for lifts and the scientist who invented the first mobile refrigeration units. We created our circles of trust and made a presentation about Michelle Obama's life.

In PDBA (Personal Development, Behaviours and Attitudes), we made boxes to put in all of the things we don't like and we had great fun screwing up our bad thoughts and throwing them in the bin!

In Healthy Living, we have been trying some different foods and exercises, including the outdoor gym and parachute games. We finished the half term with a tennis competition and we made yoghurt bark (no trees or dogs were harmed in the making of the bark!). Yoghurt bark is a healthy frozen yoghurt snack which you can add additional toppings to. We used our tennis competition to keep a record of all the scores and turned this data into bar charts, so we could see all of our data recorded. There was a tie for first place in the tennis competition and all the learners won their matches against the staff. We look forward to the rematch!

Some of the group have been attending Church Farm this term, and they have been learning about the site and the animals on the farm.



## Walk to Lourdes

The final number of laps accomplished from our Lourdes walk across the centre was 1000 + and still counting! The college walked nearly 100 laps each week which meant we did at least 400 laps! For some this walk has kick started a health journey and improved well-being for the learners as they walk and talk with the staff and peers. The learners at our college have pledged to continue this daily mile to promote their health and wellbeing.

## Jeans for Genes Day

September 18 – September 24 was Jeans for Genes Day. This is fundraising day for children with genetic conditions in the UK. Our learners and staff were invited to wear jeans and casual wear to college instead of their usual college wear. We are very proud to say that the college raised a total £38!



# Riverfly

The Riverfly Partnership is a network of organisations, representing anglers, conservationists and scientists working together to:

- protect the water quality of our rivers;
- further the understanding of riverfly populations, and;
- conserve riverfly habitats.

Bill, a citizen scientist visited our college with a river sample from the Ford in Much Hadham. The learners were able to explore a sample and support Bill with the count of each river fly species which is then uploaded to the Freshwater Biological Association database. Bill will be visiting our college for the next few months. When the weather warms up we will look forward to exploring the rivers with him in our local area and contribute to this important conservation research.



# Apple Day

What a delight to see so many staff members with their families volunteering and enjoying the delights of Apple day! It was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to be together. We had our own stall from the college selling our stock from Handy and Candy. We raised over £70 which is incredible and we look forward to purchasing more stock for our shop.

Each class has the opportunity to work within the shop to develop their customer service and confidence handling money, all of which supports evidence gathering for their City & Guilds qualifications. The learners very much enjoy having the opportunity to visit our shop throughout the week where they can also purchase items. We sell seasonal items; toiletries; game and puzzles; and cards / wrapping paper and much more!





## Enrichment

On Tuesday 17th October, the college welcomed Rocksteady Productions to the college. We were in for a treat with a wide selection of musical instruments ready to be explored.

The learners were encouraged to learn how to play each instrument alongside some of their favourite musical tracks with their peer group.

Then as a group they each contributed to a brilliant performance for the rest of the college to see. It was a fun day and wonderful to see the learner's confidence increase as the day progressed.

## CAFOD

Traditionally at St Elizabeth's we make soup, donate and fast for CAFOD. The school and college have made a huge effort to make the most delicious soups, to highlight the poverty and homelessness that is happening in the UK and other countries. This year the learners enjoyed a rich, creamy tomato soup which they celebrated within their peer group.



## Learner Council news

During October the college was buzzing with excitement as the learner election campaign started. Everyone who wanted to take part designed their campaign posters and they were put everywhere! The learners then each took their vote to the ballot box.

Drumroll.... The new elected learners for 2023/2024 Learner Council are:

- **Gregory** - Bungalow representative
- **Naomi** - Equality and Diversity representative
- **Hannah** - Events representative
- **Henry** – Chairperson
- **Matthew** – Day learner representative

# Upcoming Events

## **Monday 30th October - INSET DAY**

College curriculum staff training day. College reopens on Tuesday 31st October.

## **Tuesday 31st October - HALLOWEEN DISCO**

Day opportunities have kindly organised a Halloween party for us at the Bull & Bush. All learner are invited to dress up for the event.

## **Friday 17th November - CHILDREN IN NEED**

Classes are learning about fundraising and how to raise money for children less fortunate. Everyone to wear pyjamas and take part in a cake sale.

## **Friday 17th November - ST ELIZABETH'S DAY**

Celebration of St Elizabeth's birthday, the figure who inspired the name for our charity.

## **Thursday 30th November - COLLEGE OPEN DAY**

Open event for prospective families and learners to view the College.

## **Friday 8th December - SANTA DASH & CHRISTMAS BAZAAR**

This year, St Elizabeth's will be combining the Dah and Bazaar with Christmas hats, a small Christmas market and refreshments - everyone is welcome.

## **Tuesday 12th December - REPTILE/ANIMAL HOUSE EXPERIENCE**

Enrichment Day interactive experience with animals for all college learners

## **Monday 18th December - CHRISTMAS CRAFT/AWARDS**

All learners will take part in a Christmas craft day, followed by our annual awards to celebrate the learner's successes during Term 1.

## **Tuesday 19th December - CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Coffee morning/Christmas Carols performed by our learners. Families welcome.

## **Tuesday 19th December - END OF TERM**

College finishes at 3:30pm.