



COLLEGE

Newsletter



Issue 13

Festive Celebrations Special

December 2023

WELCOME

December has been an incredibly busy half term full of much joy, festivities and celebrations. The learners have completed their first term of 23/34 with style! We hope you enjoy reading all about it.

Christmas Craft Day

On the 1st December, the whole college started the preparations for Christmas. Each class chose the colour theme they wanted in their class and got to work. Group 1 had a great start to the Christmas celebrations, they helped the staff to put up their class room tree which is a gold theme this year. Group 2's theme this year is blue and silver. Both groups supported each other to create and prepare decorations which included handmade wreaths; baubles; wooden hanging decorations.

The learners designed and painted different shaped baubles like gifts, reindeers and snowflakes. Both groups had the opportunity to make Christmas pudding rice crispy cakes which the learners loved and said they tasted great unfortunately they looked less desirable. We finished our day by finishing off with a reflection session with Pauline, our Catholic Ethos Advocate where she came round for a calm reflection and we discussed advent.

Group 3 had a wonderful time starting off their festive season. They began the day making some essential yummy sweet treats to enjoy throughout the day with rice Krispies, peanut butter and chocolate made into Christmas Puddings! Then, they embarked on trying to make the longest paper chain possible before decorating the Christmas tree in the festive colours green and red with some fun hand decorated baubles. Anna Drury from Services for Young People did the honours of the official light switch on, complete with a countdown and lots of excitement. They completed their morning with making some traditional wreaths to gift to bungalows and the departments that support them across the centre.

In the afternoon all the learners and staff gathered with all staff, children and individuals that access the centre from across the site in the canteen for a celebration. The hot chocolate and mince pies were delicious!



Prevent

This term every group has been developing an understanding of mental health. As the days get shorter and it becomes darker it is easy to want to hide away from others. The learners have been developing strategies to think about what they could do if they are feel a little bit sad, angry or anxious. Every learner in college made a glitter jar. They added coloured glitter to the water to represent their feelings. When shaken, the learners would calmly watch the glitter until it all settled at the bottom. Most learners found this tool very relaxing. Other strategies we explored were mindful walks in our beautiful surroundings and taking the time to listen to the birds and the wind.





Sports, Health and Wellbeing

Every class has access to this lesson every week. The lesson is broken down into chunks to learn about how we look after our physical and mental health. The learners took part in weekly exercise sessions which was voted for as a collective. Some of the sporting activities that were voted for were cricket, club-a-sise, table tennis and basketball. The learners would try different fruits and vegetables and group 3 even made some healthy yogurt bars. Each session would end with a calming meditation session designed to enable the learners to be calm, still and relaxed in their learning environment.

Christmas Jumper Day

On the 7th December the learners wore their Christmas jumpers to help raise money for the charity Save the Children. We researched the charity and considered why their work is so important. The total raised was £19. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

Santa Dash and Disco

The whole college got involved in the annual Santa Dash on the 8th December. There was snow, Santa hats and Christmas music playing. The atmosphere was amazing! After our lap around the site which is approximately 1 mile, we all joined together in the canteen to meet our friends from across the centre. We are so lucky to have such special community events. The homemade mince pies and shortbread served with hot chocolate were a special treat for all.





Christmas Breakfast

On the 13th December the learners continued their celebrations by all joining together in the morning for a college Christmas breakfast. It was great to see nearly all of the learners be together and socialise whilst tucking into their breakfast (it was a special treat) both learners and staff enjoyed this social occasion. The main topic of conversation was speaking about all that they are excited about over the Christmas period. This breakfast definitely helped fill our stomachs before the Christmas concert rehearsals which were a flying success.

Enrichment Day

On the 12th December, the college had some exciting visitors. Reptile House brought with them some wonderful creatures for us to explore. The learners were exceptionally brave and excited by all the animals they saw. Some of the animals included a meerkat, a millipede; a royal python; a gheko; and even a bearded dragon. We were very impressed by the learners and how calming they found the experience. The meerkats were by far the cheekiest and could be seen sitting on the shoulders of the learners. Most of the learners requested to see them for a second session! What a fantastic event to share with their peers.

Christmas Concert & Awards

Our final week of term 1 was impressive! For the first time in college history our learners all came together to create a Christmas concert to remember. The hall was full of friends and families who were all blown away by the learners talent. Everyone got involved with singing, clapping and playing the musical instruments. Some of the songs included version a hilarious version of A Partridge in Pear Tree (Group 3 edition!); Frosty the Snowman; a solo song of Away in a Manger from Hannah; and the grand finale of I wish it Could be Christmas Every Day. The learners were hugely respectful of each other's singing and the effort they put in was fantastic.

We finished our first term at college 2023 with an end of term awards ceremony. Each learner received certificates of recognition and achievement. Every learner has so much to be proud of.

On behalf of everyone at college we would like to say we hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year.





Upcoming Dates & Events

4th - 5th January - Inset Days

College curriculum training days, college reopens on Monday 8th January at 9.20am.

W/C 15th January - Safety Week

The learners will be given the opportunity to consider how to keep themselves safe in their home, college, work and the community.

W/C 29th January - Aspirations Week

This week the learners will meet a wide range of professionals to inspire their future life ambitions. All learners will undertake work experience at different departments around the centre.

W/C 12th - 16th February - Enrichment Week

Each class have chosen a fun experience day with their peer group.

Friday 16th February - Lent

The learners at the college will be learning about Lent. They will be undertaking a lap around the site to raise money for CAFOD.

Friday 16th February - Half Term

College will close at 3.30pm and we will reopen at 9am on the 26th February.

