



Ellesmere College Newsletter



A message from Steph Beale, Executive Principal

What a wonderful year it has been! There has been so much to celebrate. Students have been on so many trips to various places. Our dance show at Curve Theatre was a major success. Ellesmere students were the only school to perform without an adult on the stage. This speaks for the students' confidence and independence and we were all so proud of them. Speaking of proud moments, our first cohort of Project Search interns graduated in June. The graduation event was attended by families, NHS executives and even the Deputy Lieutenant, a representative of King Charles!!!

The summer term has been busy with lots of fun events, prize giving, senior prom, fun day and sports day to name but a few. The students will be ready for their summer break. I hope you all have a safe, fun and relaxing summer break and we look forward to welcoming all the students back in September. For those families for whom this is the last newsletter you will receive, I'd like to wish the students all the best for their futures beyond Ellesmere.

Best Wishes,
Steph



Humphrey

Humphrey has been working hard not only with our lovely students but with his training. He has passed his Recovery Assistant Dog Public access assessment and is now a fully qualified RAD assistant dog. In addition to this Humphrey has also passed the Canine Assisted Learning accreditation and is now a qualified school dog.

Humphrey continues to be an amazing support system to our students, helping with Social, Emotional and Mental Health, encouraging reading and communication. We are very proud of Humphrey.

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Aylestone Meadows - A Message from Simon, Head of Centre

As we approach the end of another very busy and very successful year at Ellesmere, I would like to thank all of the wonderful staff for their incredible work with the students on a day to day basis. I often say in meetings and training sessions, that remarkable things happen here every day. It really is true!

I am writing this in glorious June weather having just walked around the school and seen children engaging in their learning in the sunshine in fantastically creative and fun ways. There are primary children roleplaying being at the seaside with sand and water, students making fantastic chalk art work on the playground and so many other things. It is a joy to see this and to work here at Ellesmere.

We have had a busy term with lots of events taking place. We had 30 children performing at Curve on the 20th June with over 100 of their friends coming to watch them. Classes are also busy planning end of term trips, sports days and special events to mark the end of the school year.

We have successfully started some new 'family nights' at school with a pizza and disco evening in April. It is vital that Ellesmere is a community where people feel that they are welcome, accepted and belong. We want to build on this sense of community through events such as this – so watch this space for further activities!

As the year draws to a close we must say farewell to some of our students who are leaving us and going on to various college courses. We wish them every success for the future. We also say goodbye to a number of staff who are moving on to pastures new. We thank them for all that they have contributed to Ellesmere over the years and send them out to their new ventures with our very warmest wishes.

Have a lovely summer!

Simon



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Knighton Fields - A message from Liz Richardson, Head of Centre

What a difference a year makes!

Our Intervention Team have done an amazing job this year and have completed over 200 interventions. They have worked closely with the Occupational Therapist, Speech and Language Therapist, CAMHS and Music Therapist. This teamwork has truly meant that we have been able to offer the personalised curriculum that each of the students needs.

I would like to thank the Lead Teachers for their continued enthusiasm in working with me to develop an appropriate curriculum for our students, and for all the fun activities they plan for them.

Owls have been learning all about plants. Pupils have found plants in our environment and talked about how they feel, smell and what they look like. We have even grown our own plants in class and taken it in turns to care of them watering them and making sure they get plenty of sunlight.



Squirrels class have been looking at measuring, some of the students enjoyed emptying and filling containers with different coloured water during maths lessons. In ladybirds they have had a great time exploring the new bicycles. It has encouraged some great interactions and kept us active too.

We have welcomed in a number of new students during the year and I am pleased to say they have all settled in exceptionally well. The pupils have all have all worked hard this year.



Well Done to all pupils for a fantastic year. I would like to thank each and every member of the staff team at Knighton Fields who have enabled all of the children to make the progress that they have.

I look forward to continuing to work with you all next year.

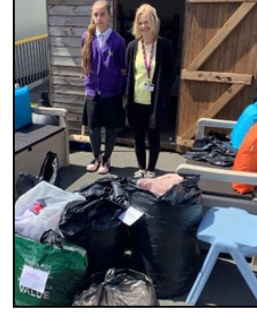


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Post-16 - A Message from Sally, Head of Centre

We've had another fun packed term which has included lots of fantastic experiences thanks to the wonderful staff in Post 16. Teaching Assistant Neil, has worked with students to add guttering to the reading shed. He has also supported students in painting our shed. Sarah used her links in the community to set up weekly visits between Braun class and Enderby Grange Care home and Iyanuoluwa showed students how to style afro textured hair!

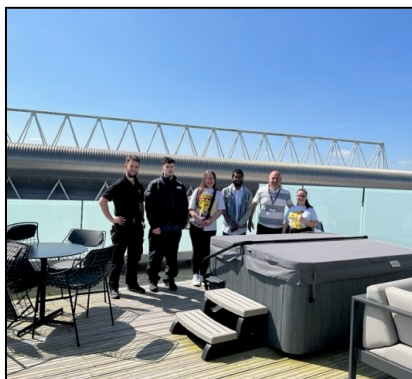


Teaching Assistant Jo helped students to make willow sculptures as part of a research project whilst Madeleine supported students in collecting old blankets and towels for the RSPCA. We also continued to work with Dr. Alex from Leicester in the Community (LCFC) running sessions in Forestry and land management and environmental projects.



Hotel Brooklyn

New site Hotel Brooklyn hosted an information event for parents, mentors and existing interns and parents over half term. It was a great opportunity for mentors at the Hotel to meet their new interns and learn of the impact it has had on our interns this year. Karl (hotel manager of Hotel Brooklyn) has recommended Amber for an award in the upcoming 'Alternative Business Awards'. She will receive 'Hotel Brooklyn Number 1 Fan' in honour of the canvas she has created for the hotel.





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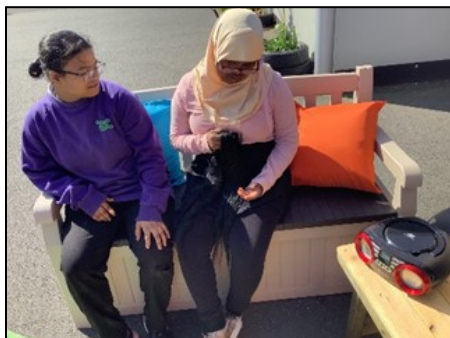


Post-16 - A Message from Sally, Head of Centre

Developing the Reading Shed and audio books

We visit the BRITE centre library regularly and we also use the onsite library to access books that meet the phonic level of students. However we wanted another resource for reference books, magazines and fiction books donated by Post 16 staff so we have created a 'Reading Retreat'. The students helped build the shelves for the books. We've also purchased a number of books on CD for shared or individual sessions of listening to an audio book.

I can't really believe this year is coming to an end. We've had a wonderful time with our current Post 16 cohort and wish all of those leaving success in the future. I've met the students coming up and I'm very excited about what we will achieve next year. Thank you so much for everyone that has supported our students and staff during this fabulous year.



PROM





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The interns on their first year of Project Search have graduated! They have spent the school year in work rotations at Leicester Royal Infirmary in departments such as patient catering, portering and domestics. They have all grown as young adults, demonstrating that they are more independent, can try new things, meet new people and have the skills for paid employment. We are immensely proud of their achievements; their enthusiasm and the commitment they have shown and wish them every success in the future as they head towards the world of work.

In September we will welcome our next cohort of interns – not just at the hospital, but also in our second partner business, Hotel Brooklyn. We are looking forward to working with the interns in their supported internships in 2023/24.

This half term Sulaymon (student) shared on an online conference for LLEP with 50 delegates. He then presented again to a National DFN Project Search Training day with delegates from across the entire UK. In July the NHS have requested he talk at part of their 75 year celebrations.

In June we celebrated the completion of our first DFN Project Search program. The event was held at the secret garden and attended by a variety of V.I.Ps including the CEO of UHL Richard Mitchell, Deputy Lieutenant Professor Allison and LCFC legend Steve Walsh. Well done to Renu, Margaret and all of our students who have worked incredibly hard this year and are looking forward to more success in the future.





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Belong Gaming Centre

Phoenix class went on a trip to the Belong Gaming Centre at Fosse Park. This was paid for with their enterprise money raised from the Easter egg raffle the class did earlier in the year. The remainder of the money they decided to donate to charity. Some decided to walk and some took the public bus. They had a great time and it was lovely for them to see the rewards for their hard work.



GAMING

RESILIENCE

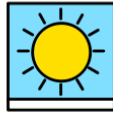
Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition



The D of E group overcame the heat, storms and even flooding to complete their Bronze award Expedition This was held over 2 days and 1 night and we are all extremely proud of them and the resilience, teamwork and dedication they all showed during the time. Well done!



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Diversity Day

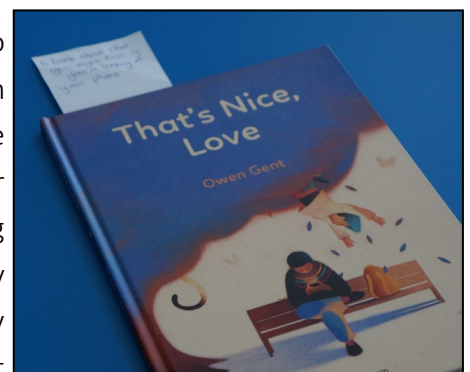


On 14th June, Ellesmere College celebrated Diversity Day around the theme of Empathy. The day focused on helping students and staff to think more emotionally and actively about others who are different from themselves.

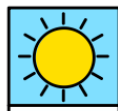
Leading up to the day, staff and students from the school learned and performed Makaton to The Beatles song "All you need is love", helping to prioritise kindness and acceptance, no matter how we communicate with one another. Classes made live link ups with other children across Ellesmere College to discover our differences and similarities.



The Ellesmere Library obtained a number of books for classes to borrow to support the "Reading for Empathy" initiative from Empathy Lab. Others took empathy walks through the ELE and were encouraged to look around at people and places to help feel their feelings. Towards the end of the day, classes reflected by making empathy resolutions that they would try to keep. We've been really moved by the way the children have responded to the Empathy Day activities and look forward to keeping the initiative going throughout the next academic year.



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Music Day



We had a fantastic music day in Primary this year. Soft Touch Arts came to visit and led an outdoor music workshop. The children loved listening to all the different instruments and interacting with their visitors. There was lots of turn taking, call and response and we even made a marching band during each session! EYFS and Cherry Class had their weekly drumming session in the Immersive Room which sounded like it was lots of fun too. We also had instruments in the Sensory Room and in our classrooms. The children seemed to really enjoy exploring music and the instruments provided for this big day.



Everyone really enjoyed listening to the trumpet and saxophone!



We even had a visit from Humphrey!



Muhibb chose to play with the shaker and the djembe when he visited the Soft touch session!



Matei spent time exploring instruments from different cultures.



Ethan took turns to play the drum with a Soft Touch performer.



Jasper liked to feel the vibrations from the speaker.