



Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College

Newsletter July 2024



This is the final newsletter of the 2023-2024 academic year, a year that has been packed full of fun, learning and new opportunities. We've had an incredibly exciting year and have achieved so much together.

Our Leavers and Achievers celebration on 16th July was the perfect opportunity for us to celebrate and share the successes our students have had. It was wonderful to see so many students, their families, staff, Directors and key community members joining our celebrations.

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported our College over the last year.

Leaver's and Achiever's Celebration



Thank you to all that attended the Leaver's and Achiever's event. We celebrated the student's amazing achievements in style with food, videos, and dancing. We'd like to say a particularly special thank you to Kim for writing and directing such a fantastic end of year production and DJ 'Matty G' for providing a top quality DJ performance.

Independent Living Skills

Garden Opening Party

Garden Opening Party

On Wednesday 26th June we held an official grand opening party to celebrate the unveiling of our wonderful sensory vegetable garden.

We were honoured to have been joined by many invited guests whom have helped us make such a transformational difference to our garden.

Kevin Hatch from Severn Trent cut the ribbon in recognition of the integral works both he and his team completed, clearing our grounds ready for the work to begin and for his continued support of the College.



Celebrating our Garden! Photo credit: The Bromsgrove Standard & photographer Marcus Mingins.



Chadsgrove College supporters: Representing Worcestershire County Council, and valued supporter of College, Cllr Shirley Webb along with Cllr Bernard McEldowney from Catshill and North Marlbrook Parish Council.

Key members of our community also joined our celebrations including Councillor Sam Ammar, Jo Slade (Bromsgrove Court Leet/Friends of St Johns), Bromsgrove Town Crier Kevin Ward, Completely Bromsgrove's Michelle Ford and our very own Handy Person Rob Barr. We were delighted to invite Chadsgrove School students to join our celebrations too!

Those whom had supported us were awarded with a certificate of appreciation and a tomato plant that has been grown by students in their garden.

You can read our newspaper write up of our Garden Opening Party via this link: <https://bromsgrovestandard.co.uk/news/community-garden-dreams-come-true-for-students-at-bromsgroves-chadsgrove-college/>

Independent Living Skills

Garden Opening Party

Garden Opening Party

Our garden has provided students with amazing opportunities to grow and learn in a purpose built, safe space - a complete transformation from what it was like before...



From this...



...To this!



We would like to whole heartedly thank everyone who has kindly contributed towards and supported our sensory, vegetable garden project, thank you.



Thank You to our Community Friends

Rowberries

Students have really embraced being out in the community this academic year and have been implementing skills learnt across the curriculum into real life situations. This was evident during a recent visit to Rowberries Garden Centre and Café for an end of year lunch.



Students collectively chose Rowberries as somewhere they would like to go to spend some of their well-earned Enterprise funds. Students practiced their communication skills and interacted appropriately at all times with members of the public and the Rowberries staff. We would like to thank Rowberries for being so very accommodating and for hosting such a wonderful lunchtime for us. A fantastic afternoon was had by all!

Community and Relationships

Summer Fete

Thank you to all our families and friends who supported and attended our Summer Fete. The Fete was a great success with the sun shining and lots of happy faces enjoying the various stalls including hook a duck, pot ping pong, garden Jenga and garden target.

There were stalls selling students enterprise gifts, plants and college garden fresh produce raising money for the local food bank. Everyone enjoyed tea and cakes which had been made by students during their independent living skills lessons. Pupils from Chadsgrove School also joined us throughout the day to take part in all the activities.

We are proud to announce that a whopping total of £720.20 was raised at the event! Students will discuss how these funds are to be used at their next Student Voice meeting when ideas will be put forward, discussed and voted on for days out, Independent living skills, Enterprise, enrichment activities and resources that students choose.

Students will, as ever, donate some of the monies raised to support other charities



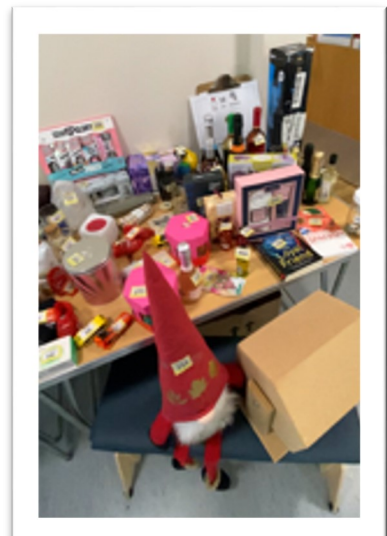
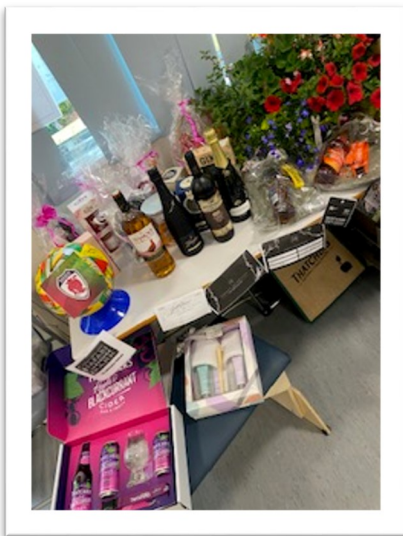
Community and Relationships

Summer Fete

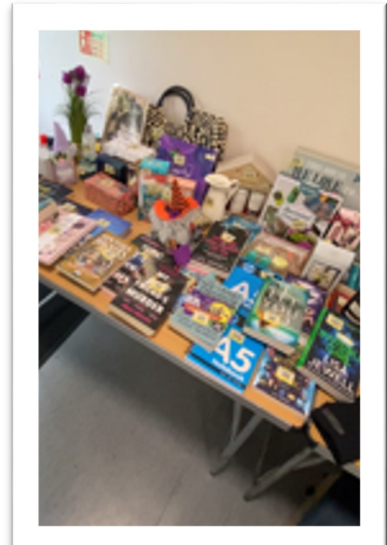
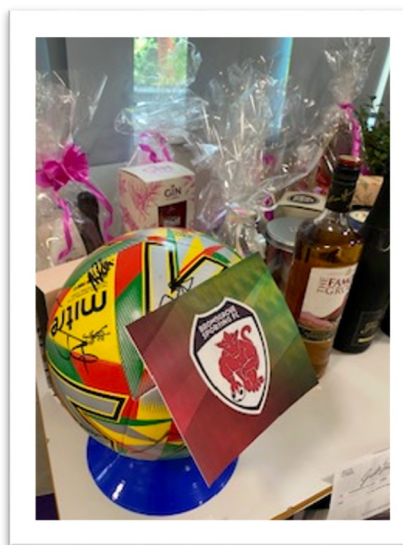
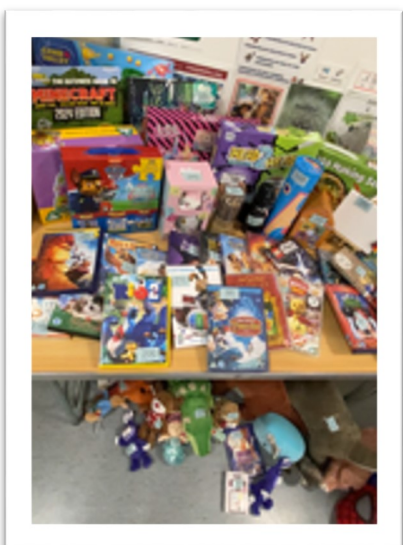
Raffle and Tombola

Thank you to all who supplied prizes for our fabulous raffle and Tombolla including:

Singletons Nurseries, Bromsgrove Sporting Morrisons, West Midlands Safari Park, Becketts Farm, Asda, Beci Wykes, Stacey McKnight Hairdressers



Our raffle and tombola had wonderful prizes that had been generously donated to us from local companies, staff and students' family members.



Work Related Learning

Refreshments for Chadsgrove School Sports Day



Students helped to provide refreshments for upper school sports day. They were all involved in deciding what we would sell, shopping and pricing as well as serving and taking money on the day.

The day was very successful and the spectators enjoyed drinks, cakes, scones and savoury snacks with all the profits going back into the student's Enterprise fund.

Signalong for Learners

The Seekers students have been busy this half term finishing their workbooks to gain their 'Signalong for Learners' qualification.

Students have been learning new signs and practising signs they are familiar with, focusing particularly on personal hygiene.



'Flannel'



'Toothbrush'

They have all worked hard modelling 20 signs and recognising 30 signs. Well done everyone!

Sign of the Half Term

Continuing the theme of personal hygiene, the students have chosen 'towel' as sign of the half term.



Using our Senses

This term the students have been taking part in a sensory story about a day at the beach.

Students explored a range of smells, sounds, textures and tastes including sampling a tasty choc ice! Sea weed, shells and sand were also used to bring the story to life and to help stimulate their senses.



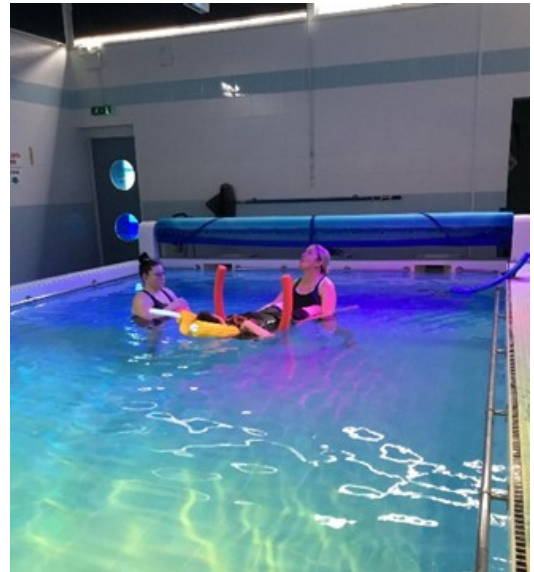
Students also learned about important things to consider to help keep safe whilst visiting the beach including using sun cream and who to call in an emergency.

We hope that, if any students get to visit the beach over the holidays, they will remember the work they did in College!

Explorers

This half term students have had their hydrotherapy sessions enhanced with sound and light thanks to the new equipment that has been installed in the Chadsgrove Schools' pool.

We are really looking forward to the new underwater sound system that is due to be fitted in September which will allow students to enjoy a fully immersive, sensational experience during their hydrotherapy sessions.



Seekers

Students have continued to use our College garden to support their health and wellbeing. When the weather has allowed Kirsty has taken her weekly fitness session outside giving students more space and the opportunity to feel the fresh air, hear the sounds of the birds and trees and to see the vibrant natural colours of the flowers and plants. Utilising the College garden has allowed Kirsty, our Physiotherapist Assistant, to add additional activities to her already very popular session.

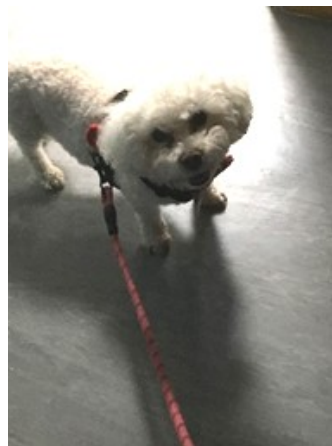


We have celebrated 'National Yoga Day' this half term, starting with a wonderful staff yoga session in the College garden before work. Students took part in 'wake up yoga', a yoga lunch club and relaxing yoga sessions.



We were invited to take part in a well-being day at Chadsgrove School this half term. Students visited different classes in the morning to try different activities such as dance, craft and drama.

Pupils from the school joined Claire in the College garden for some all ability Yoga. In the afternoon students enjoyed a seated dance session with Learning Support assistant Kim. Poppy worked hard that day to help keep everyone happy.



Independent Living Skills

Cooking

Students have enjoyed continuing their learning around healthy meal preparation during Independent Living Skills this half term.

They have made a variety of different meals including jacket potatoes, Pizza and "Subway rolls".

Students have incorporated their maths and thinking skills into these sessions with timings and measurements, as well as focussing on their hand function skills.



Students have also enjoyed baking cakes and cookies for the College Garden opening ceremony and the Leavers' Celebration evening.

The cakes and cookies went down an absolute treat and were super tasty - Mr Kipling has got nothing on us!

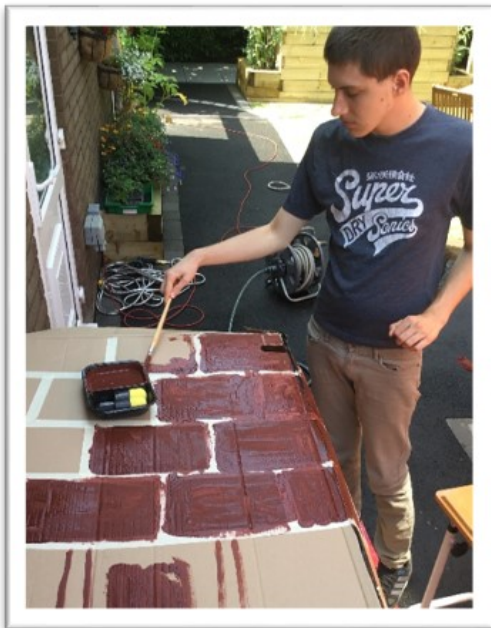


2024 College Production - The Wizard of Oz

It has become tradition now for students and staff at Chadsgrove College to showcase their art and drama skills in an end of year College production.



Chadsgrove College Productions



This year's production was based on their interpretation of the Wizard of Oz and was exceptionally written and directed by our Learning Support Assistant Kim.

Students and staff have worked remarkably hard on creating their film production of 'The Wizard of Oz'. The final piece was kept closely under wraps with the premier taking place at the Leavers and Achievers Celebration event on Tuesday 16th July. Students worked incredibly hard practicing their lines and making amazing props to support the performance.

Students had also been practising using Signalong for the film and performed an incredible rendition of 'Somewhere over the Rainbow' through the Soundbeam (see overleaf).



This project has helped us explore themes of friendship and self-belief just like the story of The Wizard of Oz! The end result was phenomenal and even brought tears of happiness to many an eye!

We're sure Hollywood will be in touch very soon once word has spread of the talented actors and actresses we have here at Chadsgrove College!

And Spielberg watch out - there's a new guy in town! Our very own Matt has the most outstanding editing and producing skills. Thank you for your support with this Matt! We're very proud of all of our talented team.

The Arts

2024 College Production - The Wizard of Oz



Chadsgrove College Productions



The Arts

2024 College Production - The Wizard of Oz

An incredible production with world class performances from students (and staff!)



The Overly Chatty Witch of the East:
"AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!"



Wicked Witch of the West:
"My sister!"



Glinda:
"Are you a good witch or a bad witch?"



Keeping Safe

Enrichment Day: 9th July 2024

Our last Enrichment Day of this academic year saw students learning about road safety through discussion and worksheets.

Students then went out and about to put their learning in to practice before they confidently used the zebra crossing to access the Meadow.



To follow on the subject of safety students took part in fun dance videos followed by a quiz about online and phone safety – we're pleased to report that students got a very high score of correct answers!

Students have again been demonstrating their community champion skills by voting to support two charities.

Firstly, students chose the rescue charity 'Dogs Friends' that Poppy the PAT dog came from. They sponsored the 'Best Dog with a Disability or Health Need' at the Dogs Friends Annual Summer Dog Show in June. Students were excited to hear the results and extremely proud to see the College logo on the event program.

DOG SHOW CLASSES & SPONSORS - Classes start at 1:30pm

1. Best Dogs Friends Rescue - In Loving Memory of Lyn
2. Best Non-Dogs Friends Rescue - Michael Garner in recognition of the work of Bobitza's Ark.
3. Best Girl - Zoe Tallis in memory of Ginger.
4. Best Boy - Michael Garner in memory of Jerry.
5. Best Puppy under 12 months - Zoe Tallis as thanks to Edgar.
6. Best Senior over 10 - Jade Smith 'Adventures with Arthur' in memory of Diz and Harvey.
7. Best Dog with Disability/Health needs - Students of Chadsgrove Educational Trust Specialist College.



DOG SHOW CLASSES & SPONSORS - Classes start at 1:30pm

8. Dog with Soulful eyes - Debbie in memory of Boo Boo.
9. Waggiest Tail - Peopletopia, Management, Development and Leadership Training Specialists.
10. Best Family of Dogs - Caroline & Tim in loving memory of Lady, Gorgeous Cavalier.
11. Fanciest Dressed - Power Cleaning Exterior.
12. Dog Most like Owner - In Loving Memory of Dorothy.
13. Every Dog's a Winner - Jan Bowkett in Memory of Tri-Paws, Dylan and Candy.
14. Dog Judge would most like to take home - Debbie in Memory of Boo Boo.



Secondly, students have been working hard in the College garden to grow produce. Students have seen great success at harvesting their first yield of potatoes, broad beans, tomato plants and shallots.

The vegetables they have grown were sold at this year's Summer Fete the proceeds of which are to be donated to Catshill Food Bank.

An incredible £55 was raised overall!!!

Well done to all the students for both their hard work and dedication to help and support others. We are so proud of the kind and caring young people you are.



End of term...

Congratulations to Mason, who has been awarded Student of the Year!

Mason received his award for his work as an ambassador supporting not only the college but also being a voice in the wider SEN community.

Well done Mason!



We would like to wish our leavers, **Jess, Mason Tom and Fern** every success and good luck for their futures and life beyond College!

Have a fantastic summer break everyone !



Useful Information

Important College Dates for your Diary

- Monday 9th September - College opens to students
- Monday 23rd September, 2-4pm - Parent Carer/Advocate Meet the Team Event
- Thursday 10th October - Student Well-Being Day (World Mental Health Day)
- Tuesday 15th October - SEND Life Beyond Event at Worcester Six Ways Stadium
- Monday 21st October - Enrichment Day
- Friday 25th October - College closes for Half Term (4.00pm)
- Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November - HALF TERM (College closed)
- Monday 4th November - College open to students
- Monday 11th November - Maths & Thinking Skills Week
- Friday 15th November - Children in Need Day
- Monday 18th November - UK Parliament Week
- Friday 22nd November - Students Enterprise Stall at Bromsgrove Christmas Market
- Week Beginning 25th November - Year 1 Students Annual Review Meetings
- Tuesday 3rd December - Disability Awareness Day
- Wednesday 11th December - Enrichment Day
- Monday 16th December - Students Christmas Lunch at the Swan
- Wednesday 18th December, 2-3.30pm - Christmas Celebration Event
- Friday 20th December - College closes for Christmas holidays (4.00pm)



Important Information

**** Please note that we will be a nut free college from
September 2024 ****