



THE BEECHES

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN 2021 NEWSLETTER!

Autumn signals the return to school and the nights drawing in. It's been a very busy few months, and a real pleasure watching all our young people develop and participate in lots of amazing activities.

We are continuing to expand our team, and have recently welcomed a new Administrator and HR Advisor. You can view our latest vacancies on our website.

We have seen some great achievements including our Steps for Refugees challenge where together our staff and young people walked over a whopping 3 million steps and raised £700 for The Refugee Council. All participants and winners were presented with certificates and Amazon vouchers.

We understand there is a need for young people to be supported with personal care and independent skills when transitioning into adulthood, and are delighted to now be CQC registered across five of our supported living homes. We are able to take referrals for young people from the age of 16 years, and can provide bespoke packages to suit individual needs. We are also very pleased to announce the opening of our new Ofsted registered home in London.

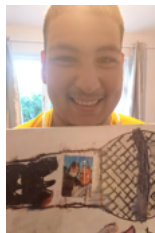
Our new virtual 360 tour of our Independent Special School is now live on our website, allowing you to put yourself into our students' shoes and immerse yourself into a real-life school day experience.

We would like to thank the entire Beeches team for their hard work and continued dedication. We are also so proud of our young people, and hope you will enjoy reading about all their accomplishments and activities below!

SUPPORTED LIVING HOMES

We have eight supported living homes where we support young people aged 16-25 with a variety of needs. We are proud to be a certified service provider registered by the CQC for five of our homes under the Health and Social Care Act 2008.

Our aim is to help our young people learn how to live independently and acquire important new skills, including cooking and going to the gym. We also encourage our young people to follow their passions in life. One football fanatic has been mingling with the Championship stars and went to Peterborough Football Club to watch a match against Wolverhampton where he had made a poster for the goalkeeper, got a selfie with him, AND managed to go home with one of the players' signed gloves! On another occasion he was lucky enough to receive his favourite player's football jersey which he framed. He also had his picture taken in some of the local newspapers and online football Instagram blog Versus. We will be keeping an eye out for this aspiring young footballer in a future World Cup!



We love celebrating birthdays and will always purchase gifts, food, and all supplies required for the party. One young person decided to celebrate their birthday at Ibrahimi with their peers.



THE WILLOWS

Residents at The Willows have enjoyed lots of fun days out including Flip Out, Sacrewell Farm, and Duxford Imperial War Museum where they learned about Duxford's involvement in the battle, and enjoyed looking around all the exhibits on offer including different types of planes and war memorabilia.



To get into the Halloween spirit, The Willows team headed to Hill Farm where they picked their own pumpkins which they carved when they got back. They also put up spooky decorations around the house



including large orange spiders and webs, monster footprints, and skeletons. They played Halloween games including pin the nose on the witch, and pass the mummy parcel which contained crowns, special prizes, and a joke in between each layer. After the games, they went on a treasure hunt to find their trick or treat boxes filled with lots of goodies, then all sat down together to enjoy a Halloween themed meal including mummy sausage rolls.



Two of our residents have just enrolled onto football training sessions at a nearby school where they participated in various warm-up exercises before playing a game between themselves. We are really proud of them for taking part with such great skill and confidence.



The Willows also came second in our Steps for Refugees challenge, racking up just shy of 1 million steps together. Well done team!



THE CEDARS

At The Cedars we have been helping young people learn valuable life skills for the future, with the team working together to construct a cabinet from flat pack and making pizzas from scratch. They have also been learning about the importance of recycling, and spent a day going through old unwanted clothing which they donated to a local charity collection.



The Cedars team won our Steps for Refugees Challenge, walking over 1.7 million steps which they achieved on trips to Ferry Meadows, Hunstanton seaside, and to Peterborough town where they visited the Cathedral to learn more about its history and attended an exhibition.



Residents have been facing their fears and trying new activities such as go karting and ice skating where they were a little nervous at the start, but soon became more confident as they got the hang of it!



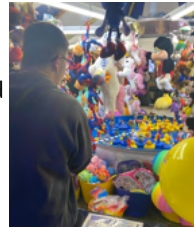
Other thrill-seekers visited Flip Out where they spent time on the trampolines and inflatable area, as well as Thorpe Park and Alton Towers where they went on different rides and rollercoasters.

Other activities have included bowling and a trip to Truck Fest where they spent time going around looking at different trucks, stalls, and speaking with drivers. They even got to sit inside one of the lorries before watching a monster truck and motocross show!



THE MAPLES

The Maples team have enjoyed lots of trips out including to Legoland (everyone loved the water rides in particular), Flip Out trampolining, and the funfair where they went on rides, played games, and enjoyed plenty of yummy treats like hot chocolate, popcorn, and candyfloss.



The team also had a great time bowling with one of our sister homes at The Beeches. They also played pool and other games where together they won over 1,000 tickets which they managed to exchange for sweets and toys!



Some of our residents have shown a keen interest in cooking, helping to prepare delicious meals such as pasta bakes and Yorkshire puddings.



Everyone really got into the Halloween spirit by practicing spooky makeup with prosthetic bloody wounds and activities such as decorating gingerbread pumpkin biscuits and watching movies.

On Bonfire Night they went to watch the fireworks and on Remembrance Day they attended a service in Peterborough city centre where they watched the marching of the services including Sea Cadets, Police Cadets, Army Cadets, and First Aid Ambulance Cadets. Staff explained to our young people who the different groups were and about the importance of the day.



With Christmas just around the corner, the team took a trip to Winter Wonderland in London's Hyde Park. They went on rides and visited the magical ice kingdom.



INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL

Our students have all been working hard at school and were lucky enough to gain work experience at various places including Tiny Steps Petting Farm, All About the Cakes, and Carla Corrado Designs. They all prepared their own set of questions to ask the employees to find out more about what is involved, and to learn about what each job entails.

At All About the Cakes students were shown how to make cookies and cakes, which they helped ice and decorate using a variety of techniques.



At Tiny Steps Petting Farm students were shown how to look after the animals by feeding and grooming them, as well as mucking out and helping with general duties around the farm.

Carla Corrado Designs visited our School to speak to our students about how she set up her business, and showed them the programmes she uses for her designs for stationery and weddings.



We have run two World Wise Days where students took part in activities covering skills from across the curriculum to learn about different countries. This term students learnt about Australia and Antarctica, which included researching fun facts, and making coconut snowballs, cardboard penguins, and fake snow!



In Humanities, students have been learning about the countries and oceans surrounding the UK, as well as about medicine in the Middle Ages including Doctor Edward Jenner who created the first vaccine.



In English students have been studying a Child's War on war remembrance and conflict. They also had a go at writing their own poems which were very moving.



In Maths they have been working on areas, measurements, times tables, mean modes, medians, and ranges.

In Life Skills they have been learning the importance of internet safety and what they can do if they find themselves in a situation where they feel they are being cyber bullied.

In RE they have been studying Christianity by looking at what it means to be a Christian and learning about their beliefs.

In Science they have been focusing on topics such as leaves, the digestive system, teeth, and the human life cycle and how it changes.

For our students who are non-verbal we have been working with the Widget Resource to access English and Communication lessons. Two of our students are also learning how to sign using Makaton. They are starting to reach a point where they do not always need prompting on certain topics such as colours. Both students are also doing really well with recognising phonics and letters, and verbalising a lot of the sounds needed. Well done all!