

Talbot Specialist School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2020



As we come to the end of term I am really pleased to be able to share some good news. Our brand new minibus will be arriving at school in the next few days! I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who joined us in fundraising for our new bus, your support has been amazing. We are looking forward to getting out and about as soon as possible in the new year.

Our students have been amazing this term and have shown us their usual resilience and sense of fun. I especially want to thank all those students who stood for student council and were brave enough to give their speeches over Zoom. Congratulations to Aharon, Layton, Bradley, Fearn, Sarah, Caitlin and Molly, our new student councillors!

I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Carolyn Sutcliffe

Outdoor Learning

This year Outdoor Learning has become a whole school focus, our aim is to get as many students as possible outside, learning with the natural resources around us. Come rain or shine the classes have been going out and taking part in some amazing projects through the Autumn Term. They have been making natural shelters and dens, out of large sticks and leaves. Bug hotels have appeared around the school grounds, providing a safe shelter for lots of the creepy crawlies to explore. Natural music has been created by using dry sticks and we have had groups exploring the local woodland, going on treks through the 'forest'. We are looking forward to exploring more of the great outdoors in 2021.



Phase 1

The team have spent time getting to know the students and their families. Rachael's zoom assembly with Friday visits to each class to allow them to celebrate with each other has become a weekly event. Another highlight has been the new friendships and skills beyond the classroom. For example Bradley is king of the skipping rope and Camilla and Tia helping to tidy away at lunchtime.



Phase 2

Phase 2 have done some fantastic singing and signing along to the Shakin' Stevens' song Merry Christmas

Everyone. Here is a picture of Aiden in class 12 making a video to the song using the green screen.



All students and staff in Phase 2 would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Student Council

In October & November, Student Council Elections took place. There were 7 candidates from Phase 1 and 14 from Phase 2. They all had to create a poster and then deliver their campaign speeches via Zoom to the entire Phase! A rigorous process! All Phase 1 & 2 Students had the chance to vote. We are so proud of the students who stood for election.

Post 16

Talbot Post 16 have worked on a theme of Autumn. Topics included Halloween, Bonfire Night and The Winter Games. Current affairs sessions have also included the 'I'm A Celebrity....' theme. Seasonal soups proved a success! Outdoor learning has taken place and supporting sessions included using recycled milk cartons to make bug hotels filled with dry plants from the sensory garden. Herbs and seeds have been grown inside and then planted in the outside poly tunnel.

Post 16 - The Bridge

I'm delighted to say that the new Post 16 venue 'The Bridge' opened its doors in September. This venue is home to students from Talbot and Seven Hills School. Students settled remarkably quickly and are enjoying their sessions. The curriculum provided is intended to help 'bridge' the transition from school and onwards. Sessions taught include Transition, ILS, Health & Well-being, Sport & Leisure and functional skills.



Online safety

For guides to staying safe on popular websites go to:

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org>

(click on the Parents Need to Know tab)

Health and Fitness

Over the last term it has been more important than ever to keep fit, healthy and active through our PE lessons. We have covered a lot of different activities in PE and across the school to ensure that students are keeping active through lots of exciting activities including Circuit Training, Boxing, Trampoline, Gymnastics and morning class Fitness activities. We have also taken part in the 'steps' challenge and recorded the number of steps each class can complete in a week. We will be continuing the activities after Christmas to ensure we stay fit and healthy in the new year.



Cycling

Over the last 6 months we have been planning an exciting new project to bring bikes and scooters into our school to extend the physical activities for our students. We now have a purpose built bike shed, fully stocked with safety equipment and tools for maintaining them. Since the beginning of November students from lots of different classes have been accessing the bikes and scooters, having lots of fun with their friends. Every student has had a smile on their face as they go around the Mugga acting like the new Bradley Wiggins and Victoria Pendleton. Students have not only loved exploring and enjoying being on the scooters and bikes, they have also enjoyed maintaining and looking after the bikes - a brilliant life skill to have. It is a fantastic resource for all to enjoy. Keep cycling everyone!

