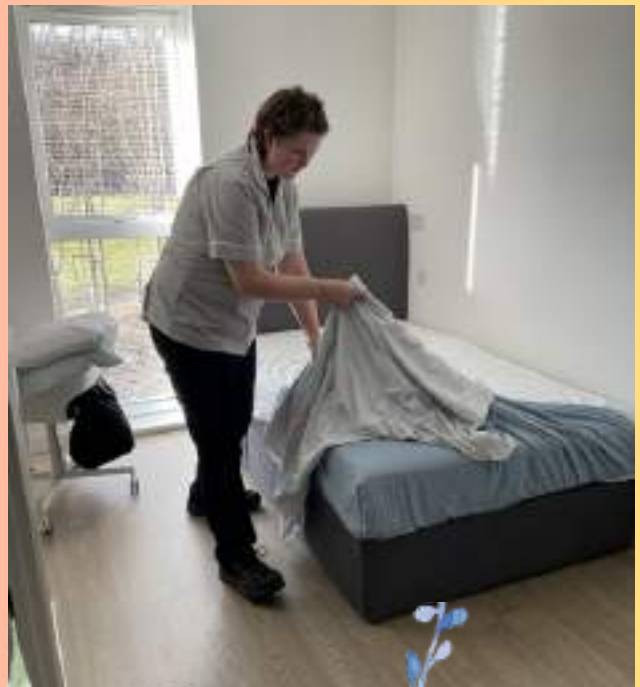


NEWFRIARS COLLEGE SPRING NEWSLETTER '25



Designed by James
ICT Pathway





EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Rob Millington, Head of College

Celebrating a Season of Achievement and Renewal

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and events that have taken place this term. It has been a busy and productive time for our College community, and I am incredibly pleased of the hard work and dedication shown by both our students and staff. As the days grow longer and the flowers begin to bloom, we are delighted to welcome the vibrant season of spring. This time of year brings a sense of renewal and energy, and we are excited to share the latest news and upcoming events from our College community.

Highlights of the Term

This term has seen a variety of exciting activities and accomplishments. Our students have excelled in so many areas and have had great experiences as you will see throughout the newsletter. Each pathway has given the students so many different opportunities. It really does make me feel very proud when I see our newsletters as I know we have such a great team – with a shared goal to improve the lives of our young people.

One aspect of College that I am really pleased with this year is the attendance and feedback from parents and students in EHCP meetings. This is greatly appreciated and will help the College improve further. We always want to make progress and this is such an important way for us to do this.





EASTER MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

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Looking ahead

As we look forward to the summer term, there are many exciting events and opportunities on the horizon. We will continue to focus on academic and personalised individual achievements, personal development, and community engagement. I encourage all students to take advantage of the various extracurricular activities and programs available to them. It is a very busy term as we have transition visits, exams, residentials and lots of celebrations like assemblies, the leavers prom and Grand Day out!

Thank you

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents, guardians, and staff for their unwavering support and commitment to our College. Your involvement and encouragement are vital to the success of our students, and I am grateful for your partnership.

Wishing you all a restful and joyous Easter break. I look forward to welcoming everyone back for the summer term which begins on Tuesday 29TH April.





CURRICULUM UPDATE FROM DEPUTY

Jay Marshall, Deputy Head of College

I cannot believe that we are already at the end of Term 2! Thank you to everyone for making this another great (and busy) term! Our focus in Term 3 is on supporting our students to complete their many different courses and programmes of study. This includes working hard with our GCSE students, many of whom will be sitting their exams next term. We are also getting ready to welcome new students from September 2025 as well as supporting the students who are leaving us to be ready for their next exciting steps.

In September 2024 we introduced a new Progress Lead role at the College in each of our three Pathways (Supported Living, Independent Living and Vocational). Kylie, Sam and Lyndsay have done a brilliant job supporting the EHCP annual reviews, meeting with parents and students to review their progress and planning their next steps. In Term 3, we will be introducing a new Pathway role: Student Experience Lead. Working with the Assistant Head of the Pathway and the Progress Lead, the Student Experience Leads (Julie, Zoe and Lyndsay) will focus on making sure each student gets the best possible experience at Newfriars College. To help us make sure each student gets the best experience they can at College, we need your feedback. In Terms 1 and 3 we send out a Parent/Carer survey.

For Term 2 we would like to ask parents/carers and students to complete a short Student Experience survey. Please scan this QR code to complete. If you would like the link to the survey emailed to you or a paper copy, please contact the College on 01782 987180. Thank you so much! Jay Marshall



Success Story.

Well done to Brad who has been offered a contract with Dimensions after a very successful supported internship this year. Thanks to all the staff who have supported Brad at Dimensions, Stoke Council for helping to find the role and his Job Coach. Brad has done many different roles at Dimensions and is now also a qualified lifeguard. We are very proud of you Brad, well done!

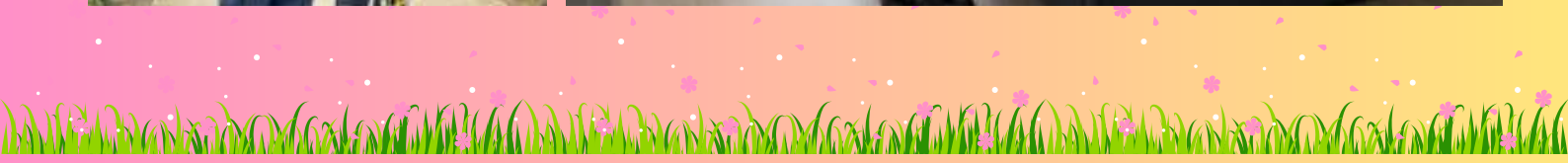


Project search

This term at Project SEARCH interns have settled well into their second placements. As well as developing a new skill set, they have continued improving their social skills and formed working relationships with a new team of colleagues.

Over the next few weeks we are holding employment planning meetings to discuss skills gained, performance, reviews, next placements and future goals. Interns have also been adding all their new skills and experience to their CVs .

After the Easter break interns will be transitioning into their final placement, putting all of their transferable skills they have learnt throughout the programme.



GCSE Photography Students Showcase Talent at Potteries Museum

The GCSE photography cohort recently had the opportunity to display their portrait work at the Potteries Museum in Hanley. This exhibition was part of the Frontlines Art Festival (FAF), themed "What's All the FAF About?". Held at the end of February, the event featured the students' work prominently in the museum's main gallery.

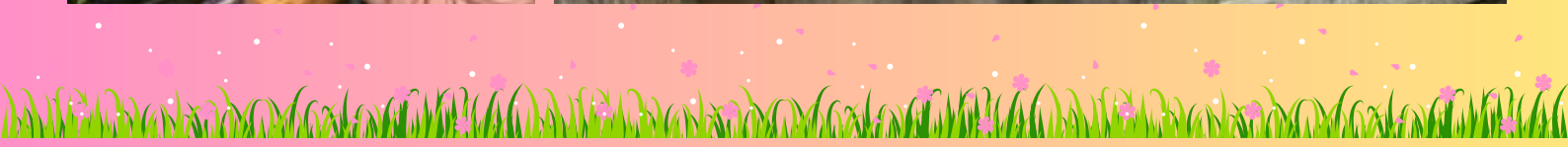
FAF is dedicated to increasing the visibility and opportunities for d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent artists in Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire. The festival also aims to extend its reach nationally and internationally, promoting inclusivity and diversity in the arts.



SLP Grow

Learners in the Supported Living Pathway have been working together over the past term to grow and nurture seedlings, bulbs and plants. The learners have developed their skills in following instructions, using personalised ways to communicate their preferences and to recognise equipment.

They have worked together in small teams to clean equipment, maintain the garden areas; weeding, sweeping and litter-picking. They have created a beautiful array of blooms to be gifted to parents and carers at the end of this Spring Term. Well done everyone.



ILP Visit to The Black Country Museum

On the 20th March, 13 students from the Independent Living Pathway took part in a day trip to The Black Country Museum as part of their Widening Horizons course.

The students had a great day, learning about how life used to be for people in this area; the houses that they lived in, the jobs that they did and the kind of things that they could buy in shops. They also enjoyed a visit to the traditional fish and chip shop.



Sam's my community group

To celebrate the start of the better weather, Sam's My Community group visited Bobby's ice cream parlour to sample the delights there and meet the friendly animals! Learners all ordered for themselves and completed the transaction as independently as possible.



Project Volunteer expanding!

After acquiring new skills and practicing at college, students from Project Volunteer are now volunteering at Camoys Court, taking charge of the garden, and bringing joy to the residents. They are utilising their gardening skills and learning how to communicate with unfamiliar people.

Working outside their comfort zone isn't easy, but students are adapting remarkably well. They are gaining vital preparation for adulthood, employability skills, teamwork, and friendship. Additionally, students are expanding their volunteering efforts at college by undertaking various jobs such as giving out registers, recycling, gardening, shredding, washing buses, cleaning, and helping out in the office and assisting teachers.

What fantastic volunteers we have at college!



SLP Impressed Enterprise Group



On Monday mornings our enterprise SLP group, Impressed, have been busy making lots of beautiful crafts such as cards, magnets, brooches, coasters and other decorative items. So far this term we have sold many of our Valentines Day range of products using our brand new trolley, recently purchased with the funds made from our fantastically successful Christmas sales.

We have been learning about how important it is to work as a team, with different groups having different jobs and responsibilities, such as a shopping group who have been out to Leek to purchase important resources, whilst back at college the creative team were busy preparing and making our items ready to sell.

Coming up, we have so many amazing and quality items and products for you all to buy for your loved ones.

These will include, Easter items, Mother's Day cards and other Spring themed products. Look out for our sales trolley on Monday mornings at break time, as well as nipping in to Room N2 to look at our new catalogue for the season.



Alistair's Work Experience Group

This term Kallam and I have been on work experience placement at the Indi club helping with the vinted charity shop. We have learned lots of new skills learning how to use vinted to sell clothes. We have even taken parcels to the post office to be sent to customers. We have raised almost £90 for the charity.



Farewell and Good Luck to Alistair



Interview with Alistair

In a heartfelt interview, James sat down with Alistair to discuss his departure from Newfriars College.

James: What are you going to miss most about Newfriars College?

Alistair: I'm going to miss working with so many fantastic and talented students.

James: How many years have you been doing this for?

Alistair: I have been working at Newfriars College for two years.

James: Are you going to come back to Newfriars in the possible future?

Alistair: I certainly hope to come and watch the performances that you all do, if you will have me back to watch them.

As Alistair bids farewell, we extend our gratitude for his contributions and wish him all the best in his future endeavours. Thank you, Alistair, for your dedication and passion. Enjoy your future, and we hope to see you again soon!

James: Thank you for having this out there and enjoy your future. It was nice speaking to you, Alistair.



Sam's Monday pm ILS group

The learners in Sam's Monday afternoon ILS group have been focusing on money skills and cleaning this half term with their mini project Sparkle Squad!



EID FOOD

On the 3rd of April we had a special Eid menu at college cooked by Khatoon & Rehana our dinner ladies.

Alyan interviewed Khatoon one of our dinner ladies who helped to prepare our special Eid Menu.

A: What happens on Eid?

K: We cook lots of food and desserts. We visit family and friends, wear new clothes and shoes, and receive lots of presents.

A: What food did you have at home for Eid?

K: Talam rice, chicken rice, and vegetable rice.

A: What special food have you made for us today?

K: Rice pudding, pakora, onion bhajis, lamb rice, chicken and peas rice, vegetable and chicken curries.

A: Which is the best ingredient that you have used?

K: Fresh chili and chili powder.

A: On the menu today, which food would you say is the best?

K: Lamb rice.



Sue's Upcycling Gang

Sue's Upcycling gang have been busy making a selection of gifts (plant pot windchimes, mini wire and button bouquets, wire bead caterpillar plant decorations, etc,) and cards in readiness for Mother's Day. They will be having a pop up stall, in the dining area, at break time on Friday 28th March. Prices range from £1 - £3



Budget Busters: Smart Shopping Adventures!

Sam's ILS group have been to the supermarket this half term to find price tags and choose between cheaper or more expensive items while sticking to a budget. They have learned a lot about making smart choices with their money.



Budget Busters: Smart Shopping Adventures!



Rain or Shine, We Ride!

They have loved spending time outdoors, getting fresh air and exercise no matter the weather. Why let the weather stop us from having fun?

This term, Sam's well-being and relationships have been going to Westport Lake to use the accessible bikes there.



Positive Steps Easter update



Molly has been working at the college so there are now two physio's at Newfriars- hopefully you have met her and will continue getting to know her. Molly worked with Positive Steps when she was at university for one of her placements so it is great she is now back working for us and getting to continue working with you all. You have made her feel very welcome! Please continue to feel free to ask us anything!

We are really excited for Easter and for hopefully more sunny and warm days. We have had lots more fun this term at Newfriars working with as many students as possible. Since half term we have been in even more with Positive Steps now being in twice a week with two of us and once a week with one physio- a total of three days now! This has been brilliant and we have been able to have even more of a positive impact on more students. Alongside Ellen,





Louis & Owen's Easter Jokes



1. Where did the orca go for summer Holiday? Wales!
2. How does the ocean say bye at the end of spring break? It waves!
3. Why are all the birds flying to Florida? For spring beak.
4. What spring break destination allows you to bring dogs? Labrador, Canada.
5. Where do cows go for spring break? Moo England.
6. Why didn't the spring breakers go to the forest? Because the trees said leave me alone.
7. Why don't skeletons go on vacation during spring break? They have no body to go with!
8. Why did the computer go to the beach during spring break? To surf the net!
9. Where do sheep go for spring break? The Baa-Hamas.
10. What did the parents say to their kids when they went to the beach for spring break? "Long time, no sea!"
11. What did the baker's son do over spring break? He loafed around.
12. How does the sun listen to the news? On the ray-dio.

**WISHING
EVERYONE
A HAPPY EASTER**

