

NEWFRIARS SUMMER NEWSLETTER



SUMMER TERM MESSAGE FROM SENIOR LEADERSHIP



Rob Millington, Head of College
Jay Marshall, Deputy Head of College

A very warm welcome to our end-of-year newsletter. In the newsletter, we will celebrate the wonderful activities and achievements we have accomplished this year at College. We will look back at the successes, opportunities, and events which make Newfriars College so unique. We are proud of all the pictures, videos, messages, and achievements of this year, and we want to share our stories, our determination, our triumphs, our adventures, and our superhuman endeavours.

This newsletter is a testimony to the hard work and sheer brilliance of our staff and students. One of the striking things from reading this newsletter is that we give so much to our local area, to charities, and to families in need. This again makes me full of pride.

We are privileged to work with so many professionals, organisations, and partners. Some of them will be mentioned in the newsletter, and we personally want to thank all of our friends in the community for the support they give us. We have so many highlights, from completing qualifications or individual targets to residential visits our learners partake in.

We would like to say thank you to the staff and the students for their superb attitude throughout the year. We have

continued our journey with three very different curriculum pathways - with separate curriculum heads in each. All three curriculum heads have been promoted to the leadership scale to recognise the importance of their role in leading and managing their individual pathways.

We have worked hard to make sure we offer each of our learners the right curriculum for them, and we are lucky we can offer a really wide range of opportunities - many of which you will see celebrated in the newsletter.

Next week, we will be giving each of our young people certificates to recognise what they have learnt and celebrate the progress they have made. Make sure you have a look at these to see what progress your son/daughter has made over the year.

We would like to wish you all a very joyful, safe, and restful summer holiday. Happiness is the richest thing we will ever own, and we believe at Newfriars that we have a very happy College with people that like to have fun, try new things, and enjoy the opportunities that are offered.

Thank you all for your tremendous encouragement, generosity, and kindness this year. We look forward to seeing the learners who are continuing with us on Monday, 9th September, and wish the young people leaving us the happiest of futures.

GOODBYE & GOOD LUCK

Farewell to Our Cherished Colleagues

As the academic year draws to a close, we bid a heartfelt farewell to several cherished members of our college community who are setting off on new adventures. We extend our warmest goodbyes to Kathryn Taylor, Morag Dunster, Ange Colby, Sophie Beasley, Hannah Clarke, and Nurse Vicky.

Kathryn Taylor

Kathryn has been a beacon of creativity, energy, and enthusiasm over the past six years. Her leadership, empathy, and unwavering support for students have been truly inspiring. As she moves on to her new role as Head of School at the Meadows in Leek, we wish her all the best. Kathryn, you will be deeply missed by friends, colleagues, and students alike.

Morag Dunster

Morag has been with Newfriars College for nine years, starting on reception and rising to the role of Office Manager. Known as the go-to person for everything from wages to event planning, Morag has been a pillar of support and a shoulder to cry on for many. Her departure leaves a significant void, and we wish her all the best for the future. We look forward to seeing her on Sewing Bee soon!



Ange Colby

Ange has been a dedicated member of SET for 18 years, ensuring the smooth coordination of exams and qualifications. Her meticulous work has been crucial in meeting inspectors' requirements and supporting students through their academic journeys. Ange's presence will be greatly missed, and we wish her a very happy retirement.

Nurse Vicky Edge

Nurse Vicky's dedication and compassion have made her a lifeline for many learners. Her smile and bubbly personality have brightened even the most tense moments. As she moves on to new pastures within the NHS, we thank her for her unwavering support and wish her all the best.

Sophie Beasley

Sophie, our ray of sunshine, has been a dedicated driver, remarkable rebounder, super swimmer, and selfie queen. Her enthusiasm and care for everyone have been invaluable. We will miss her dearly and hope she has the most amazing adventures ahead. Keep us updated with lots of photos and postcards, Sophie!

Hannah Clarke

Hannah has been an incredible support to learners in the classroom, community, and on residential. Her close work with students like Lewis has made a significant impact. As she moves on, we will feel a big gap but wish her the very best in her future endeavours.

GOOD LUCK AND FAREWELL



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Kathryn Taylor

For her wonderful creative work, her unbelievable energy, her enthusiasm, her amazing leadership and empathy, her caring nature and her inspiring support of all of the students who she has looked after during the past 6 years.

A truly remarkable woman who will be missed by all of her friends, colleagues and students.

We wish her the very best in her new role as Head of School at the Meadows in Leek.

Good luck Kathryn, you will be missed by all.



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Morag Dunster

For her amazing front of house and back office management, her knowledge of the inner workings of the college and ability to survive under the most difficult and stressful of situations is a lesson to us all. Her organisation of the annual college Christmas lunch and her famous origami table decorations will be much missed. Many staff have appreciated her crafty skills, creating lasting memories. Morag has successfully stepped into the role of a TA and her 1:1 work has been outstanding. She has made a difference to lives of the learners with her nurturing approach, one student has even named her teddy, "Morag". We wish her the very best in her next adventure.

Good luck Morag, you will be missed by all.



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Ange Colby

For her dedication, tenacity, diligence and compassion. In her role of Exams Officer she has executed her duties so efficiently as to be repeatedly recognized by the exam board. In her HR role Ange has always shown consideration and empathy for the needs of the staff and to many, has been an ear to listen and a shoulder to cry on. A mother to us all.

After such a consistent effort Ange is, deservedly, retiring.

We will miss her and wish her the very best.



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Nurse Vicky Edge

For her dedication and compassion. To many learners, past and present, she has quite literally been a lifeline. Her smile and bubbly personality always lights up a room, even in the most tense of moments. The support that she has shown to students, staff and parents has been a constant source of reassurance, ensuring that the learners can enjoy their time at Newfriars College.

Vicky is moving to pasture new within the NHS.

We will miss her so much and wish her all the very best.



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Hannah Clarke

We want to wish a big farewell to Hannah, who has supported the learners amazingly during her time at Newfriars in the classroom, community, on residential and beyond. She has worked closely with Lewis and helped him and many others make so much progress during their time at Newfriars. We will feel a big gap when Hannah leaves but we want to wish her the very best!

Hannah is relocating to Devon in the summer.

We will miss her so much and wish her all the very best.



Newfriars College Class of 2024 Leavers



This Certificate is given to

Sophie Beasley

Sophie, our ray of sunshine, dedicated driver, remarkable rebounder, super swimmer and selfie queen. We will miss you so much and SLP won't be the same.

Thank you for your enthusiasm, dedication to the learners and care for everyone.

We hope you have the most amazing adventure.

Keep us all updated with lots of photos and postcards.

LEAVERS PROM 2024



SPORTS UPDATE

Updates from our sports coordinator
written by Jack H

This summer has been bustling with exciting events and achievements for Newfriars College. Here's a roundup of what we've been up to:

SLP at the Keele Pentathlon Event

Our SLP team participated in the Keele Pentathlon event, showcasing their skills and determination.

Basketball Tournament at Biddulph Leisure Centre

Some of our ILP students and sports leaders headed to Biddulph Leisure Centre for a basketball tournament. They performed exceptionally well, demonstrating resilience and teamwork even when faced with challenges.



Upcoming Football Match

Mark your calendars for July 12th! New Friars will face Abby Hill College in what promises to be our most challenging football match to date.

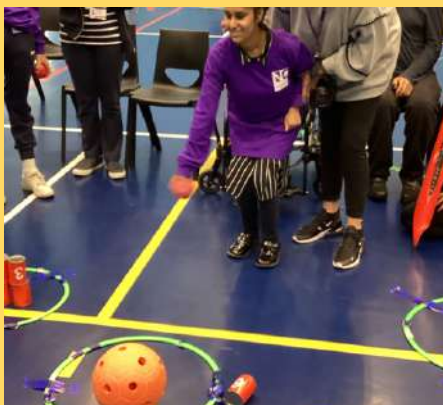
Gold Schools Game Mark Award

We are thrilled to announce that New Friars has been awarded the Gold Schools Game Mark Award. This prestigious recognition celebrates our commitment to physical activities, including rebound, gym sessions, various sports, and more.

Sports Leaders' Success

A big congratulations to all our sports leaders who have successfully passed their courses this year. Your hard work and dedication have truly paid off!

YEAR OF SPORTS



COMMUNITY JUNCTION

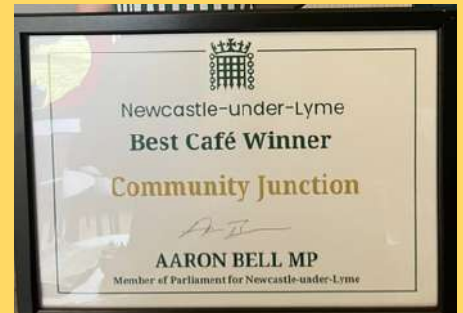
Community Junction wins Best Café Award

This half term, Community Junction was awarded the Best Café in Newcastle award by the office of Aaron Bell. It is fantastic to see the team's hard work and dedication recognised by the wider community.

The Community Junction team would like to send a massive thank you to everyone who has supported our learners in developing their employability skills this year. The progress made by the learners is nothing short of amazing, and the staff team are incredibly proud of each and every one of them.

We look forward to welcoming you all in September with a new cohort of learners.

Thank you for being a part of our journey. Your support means the world to us!



PROJECT SEARCH

Celebrating Six Years of Success at UHNM

For the past six years, Project SEARCH UHNM has been a beacon of hope and progress, supporting five groups of interns through the challenges of Covid and beyond. This partnership was established to challenge stereotypes about employees with learning disabilities and autism, providing meaningful, paid employment for those eager to work. Nationally, less than 5% of adults with learning disabilities and autism are in paid employment, but Project SEARCH UHNM is proud to report employment statistics regularly exceeding 70-80%.

Achievements and Impact

Over the years, Project SEARCH UHNM has supported twenty-five young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) into paid employment, helping them become independent adults within the community. These young individuals have demonstrated exceptional work ethics and have proven to be valuable, loyal employees. The partnership's impact extends beyond the interns and their families, positively influencing the wider UHNM community. We are immensely proud of this initiative and its ongoing success.



Success Stories

There have been numerous success stories:

- Lewis has secured a full-time position at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust as the Corporate Safety Champion - Lived Experience. His placements and ability to articulate his experience earned him excellent feedback. Lewis says: "I am really excited about the team I'll be working with and the job I'll be doing. It is giving me the chance to pay for things myself and I am excited about the opportunities it will give me in the future."
- Tom has gained full-time employment at BET365 as a Waste Operative. His dedication during placements equipped him with transferable skills. Tom says: "I am happy that I've got a job. I am excited to go and earn money."
- Dylan has been promoting Health Passports and spreading awareness about listening to patients with disabilities at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. He is also a Lived Experience Co-Trainer.
- Anna has joined the Bank Admin Team at University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust. She worked hard during her placements and will now support various departments. Anna says: "I'm pleased that I will be working and be able to give the care that I have dreamed of doing since I was a child. Also, I am happy that I will be getting paid."

PROJECT SEARCH

Celebrating Six Years of Success at UHNM

Looking Ahead

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of our interns and the positive impact Project SEARCH UHNM has had on their lives and the community. The initiative is expanding with further new opportunities for supported internships with UHNM, Tesco, and Stoke-On-Trent City Council.

Project SEARCH UHNM

- The award-winning Supported Internship Programme at the Royal Stoke University Hospital is called Project SEARCH UHNM.
- Interns can complete placements in various roles, including:
 - Receptionist
 - Ward Assistant
 - Catering Assistant
 - Domestic
 - Gardener
 - Maintenance Assistant
 - Clinic Assistant
 - Porter



Tesco

- The Supported Internship Programme at Tesco is called 'Retail Ready.'
- Interns have the option to complete placements in various areas, including:
 - Dot.com online shopping
 - Clothing and Merchandising
 - Produce (Fresh Fruit and Veg)
 - Frozen Foods
 - Bakery (Bread and Cakes)
 - Warehouse Assistant

Stoke-On-Trent City Council

- The Supported Internship Programme with Stoke-on-Trent City Council provides essential employability skills.
- Interns can work in multiple council departments, including:
 - Business and Administration
 - Leisure Services (roles such as Receptionist, Food and Beverage Assistant, Leisure Centre Attendant)

We look forward to continuing this journey and supporting more young people in achieving their employment goals. Long may these partnership continue!

SPEAKING OUT

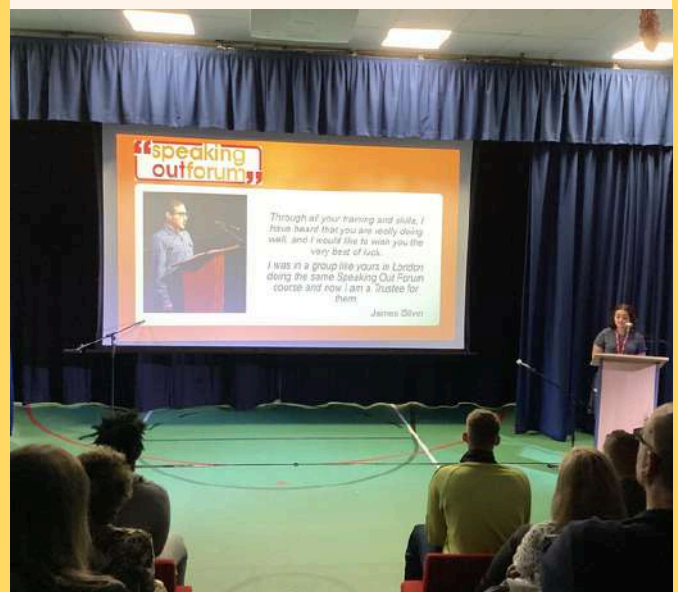
Advocacy for Disability: A Successful Event at Newfriars College

On Wednesday, June 5th, Newfriars College hosted an inspiring event in collaboration with the Speaking Out Forum, focusing on the theme of “Advocacy for Disability.” The event featured nine passionate learners who delivered compelling speeches on various topics, including understanding autism, the need for more wheelchair-accessible buses, early start times for disabled bus passes, and funding for IT support for people with SEND.

One of the highlights was Lewis Bunn, a Supported Intern at UHNM, who shared his journey to securing a full-time job at the hospital. Lewis now works with hospital managers to make the facility more accessible for everyone. His story is a testament to the power of advocacy and the importance of making sure every voice is heard.



The Speaking Out program, which ran over five sessions, aimed to build confidence in students and teach them how to speak up for themselves. The program included nine students and five staff mentors, all working together to foster a supportive environment. The students were selected for their potential to benefit from the program, and their growth in confidence was evident by the end of the sessions.



SPEAKING OUT

Advocacy for Disability: A Successful Event at Newfriars College

The event also featured a celebration where students received certificates, badges, and medals for their participation. Simone, from the Speaking Out Forum, attended the sessions and brought two trustees to the main event, further highlighting the importance of the program.

Julie Davis, the TA Manager at Newfriars College, shared her favorite moments from the program, including a Freddie Mercury-inspired vocal warm-up and the final speeches delivered by the students. She expressed pride in the students' achievements and their ability to advocate for themselves and others with disabilities.



Looking ahead, Newfriars College hopes to continue the Speaking Out program, inspired by this year's success. Whether or not the Speaking Out Forum is involved again, the college is committed to empowering students to speak out and make a difference.

This event was a significant step towards creating a more inclusive and supportive community at Newfriars College. We are incredibly proud of all the participants and look forward to continuing this important work.



PGL – SUMMER 24

Our annual PGL residential trip

This year, a group of eight students and four staff headed off on our annual PGL residential trip. It was an absolutely fantastic week, made even better by the great weather we had. It was amazing to watch how students faced and dealt with new challenges. Each and every one of them did superbly. We saw some brilliant examples of teamwork, commitment, and leadership from the students. The PGL staff were full of praise for the students, as were we. Equally, a big thank you goes to the staff who gave up their own time and commitments to accompany the students. Without them, it would not be possible to run the residential.



LONDON

Celebrating an overnight trip to the Capital City

In June, our college embarked on an unforgettable overnight trip to the capital city, London. Nine enthusiastic students from various pathways came together for an adventure filled with laughter, learning, and cultural exploration.

The Lion King Show 🦁

Our first highlight was the mesmerizing Lion King show. As the curtains rose at the Lyceum Theatre, we were transported to the African savannah. The dazzling costumes, powerful music, and incredible puppetry left us in awe. Hakuna Matata indeed!



The London Eye 🎡

Next up, we soared high above the city on the iconic London Eye. There were a few nerves, but they conquered their fear of heights to take in the breathtaking views of the Thames River, Big Ben, and St. Paul's Cathedral and much more!

River Cruise on the Thames 🚢

Our adventure continued with a delightful Thames River Cruise. For 40 minutes, we sailed past historic landmarks - St. Paul's Cathedral, Tower Bridge, and even Shakespeare's Globe.

We had an amazing couple of days, making memories and taking part in new experiences for everyone!

CANOEING WITH CANAL RIVER TRUST

Canal River Trust Group's Canoeing Adventure

In June, the Canal River Trust group enjoyed a fantastic session canoeing along the Trent and Mersey Canal. Starting from Harecastle Tunnel, they paddled all the way to Middleport and back, making the most of a beautiful Wednesday out on the water.

The day was filled with fun, teamwork, and a great sense of adventure. Well done to everyone who took part!



HORTICULTURE

Update from Steve on his Wednesday's group

Despite the chilly and wet weather over the past few months, our garden has finally started to flourish! Yesterday, our dedicated Wednesday gardeners had the joy of harvesting raspberries, potatoes, and strawberries.

Throughout the year, our students have embraced their roles as the Wednesday college gardeners, contributing significantly to the development of the allotment and wildlife area near the polytunnel. Over the past 11 months, they have learned and honed numerous skills, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and engagement during yesterday's session.

Looking ahead, we plan to expand our efforts to other areas around the college while continuing to maintain the existing ones. A big well done to all the students for their hard work this year, and a heartfelt thank you to all the staff who have supported the Wednesday sessions. Your help and dedication are greatly appreciated!



PHOTO EXHIBITION

Celebrating Our Talented Photographers

This year, our GCSE Photography and Enrichment students have truly excelled with their cameras, capturing stunning images that showcase their creativity and technical skills. We are thrilled to share a selection of photographs from our End of Year Exhibition, highlighting the remarkable talent and achievements of our learners. Join us in celebrating their hard work and dedication throughout the year!



QUACK KINGDOM

Hannah's Duck Project: A Creative Journey



Meet Hannah

Hannah is a student at Newfriars College with a passion for art. Recently, she embarked on an exciting project in her art class, creating a series of ducks that have captured the imagination of her peers and teachers alike.

The Inspiration

Hannah loves ducks, and they are her favourite animal. This love inspired her to create a unique project where each duck has its own story and personality. She envisioned a “Kingdom of Ducks,” with Dean, the king, at the centre. Surrounding Dean are 14 other ducks, each with a distinct role and story within the kingdom.

The Ducks

The kingdom includes characters like Ed, Dean’s best friend, and Nico, among others. Each duck has a short description that outlines who they are and what they do. Most of these characters live in the castle with King Dean, contributing to the vibrant life of the kingdom.

Challenges and Creativity

One of the biggest challenges Hannah faced was naming the ducks and ensuring they all looked like they belonged to the same kingdom. She decided on green as the kingdom’s colour to maintain a cohesive look. Naming the king “Dean” was a personal choice, simply because she liked the name.

Advice for Aspiring Artists

Hannah advises anyone interested in a similar project to take it slow and not rush the creative process. She emphasizes the importance of revisiting your work to find inspiration for new ideas. For example, when she was stuck on creating a character to look after her, she revisited her previous work and came up with Nimmy, the nanny.

Final Thoughts

Hannah’s duck project is a testament to her creativity and love for art. It’s a brilliant example of how personal interests can be transformed into meaningful and imaginative art projects. Thank you, Hannah, for sharing your wonderful journey with us!

HORTICULTURE

Tuesday Gardeners Wrap Up the Year at Foxlowe Community Gardens

The Tuesday Gardeners recently concluded their final visit to the Foxlowe Community Gardens in Leek for this academic year. This trip was a wonderful opportunity for the students to showcase the skills they have honed throughout the year. The group worked collaboratively to complete a list of tasks set by the Foxlowe team, while the college staff stepped back to observe and provide support when needed.

The day's tasks included summer pruning of the apple trees, cutting the grass, organizing the composting area, trimming the willow hedge to improve accessibility, and mulching the raised beds. It was truly inspiring to see the students so engaged and dedicated to their work. The feedback from the Foxlowe team was overwhelmingly positive.



This visit also marked a bittersweet moment as some students bid farewell to the Foxlowe, as they will be leaving college this year. A special thank you goes out to Josh, Kieran, Jack, and Amy for their significant contributions over the years. Your efforts have greatly enriched our Tuesday sessions both at college and at the Foxlowe.

Lastly, a heartfelt thank you to all the college staff who have supported the Tuesday Gardeners this year. These opportunities would not be possible without your dedication and hard work. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Warm regards, Steve

WORK EXPERIENCE

Update from job coach Alistair

Students have continued to go out on Work Experience placements this term at Tesco, Belong and eBay at Project Indi and this term a further placement has been introduced at The Grocott Centre at Willow Barns retirement village in Blurton.

Students have continued to develop different skills at these placements, learning new skills and consolidating skills they have learned elsewhere.

At Belong students have had the opportunity to try different departments including Housekeeping, reception, maintenance and the gym. As we can see from the pictures Aliza and Jack really got stuck into cleaning resident's rooms and helping in the laundry.



Students have continued to run the eBay charity shop for Project Indi club, continuing to learn how to access eBay correctly and list items for sale and then service items that have sold by packaging them and taking them to the post office.

Finally at Willow Barns students have helped run The Bistro serving customers food orders and using the till to take payments. Also using their catering skills to present deserts to customers. The students have also been maintaining the menu for the Bistro updating it each week.

GROW PROJECT VISIT

SLP Grow Project Learners Explore John Hall Wellness Garden

Learners from the SLP Grow Project recently revisited the serene John Hall Wellness Garden in Leek to explore the community's green spaces. The peaceful environment provided the perfect setting for a Summer Treasure Hunt, where the team used symbol boards to identify key signs of the changing season.

This visit also offered the group a valuable opportunity to observe how plants and flowers thrive in different environments. They were particularly interested in comparing the growth of peas and salad in the Wellness Garden to those they have been cultivating in their college garden.

The experience not only enriched their understanding of horticulture but also highlighted the importance of green spaces in fostering community well-being.



AI ENHANCES INCLUSIVITY

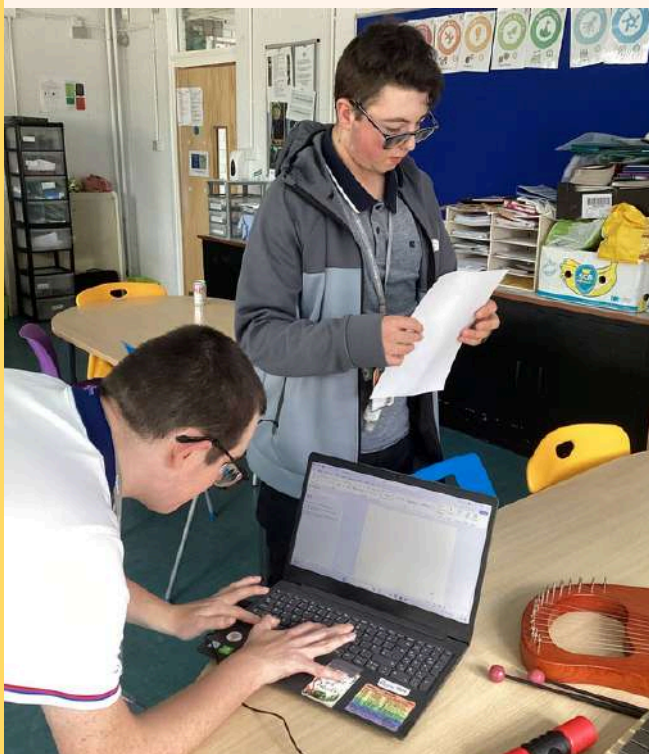
Mark shares how assistive technology can increase opportunities and inclusivity for SEND learners

I am excited to report that we have used a combination of 'speech to text' and generative AI technology. Using this technology has allowed more learners to write articles for this newsletter. For example, Louis and Callum interviewed Julia, the music therapist. Using 'speech to text' technology, Julia's responses to the questions from Louis and Callum were converted into text. This text was then copied into COPILOT (generative AI) to be finessed into an article for the newsletter.



We acknowledge there may be risks and dangers in using AI, but on the other hand, AI has the potential to be a game changer for SEND. We are proud to use this cutting-edge technology to increase opportunities and develop more inclusivity.

I am a dyslexic learner myself, and I know firsthand how technology can help. I regularly use text-to-speech and listen to audiobooks, which have been a revolution.



MAKATON CLUB: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE COMMUNICATION

Louis interviews Liam about his Makaton sessions



Q: What does your Makaton signing club require?

Liam: There aren't really any specific requirements. I just ask the students to come and engage. Everyone seems to participate very well.

Q: Do you have any favourite songs that you like to sing?

Liam: We have a different song every day. Currently, we do the alphabet with Jack Hartman and some Singing Hands at the end. My favourite is "Proud."

Q: What got you into Makaton, Liam?

Liam: When I was working at Black Frozen, I was in a communication-based class where many students were signing. I picked up a Level 1 handbook and started teaching myself. I got quite passionate about it and now hope to become a qualified Makaton tutor. This would allow me to teach Makaton at college and help others get their qualifications.

Q: Have you ever done Makaton in college?

Liam: Yes, I run a club every Monday and raise awareness during staff training sessions. We cover key signs that might be needed for students.

Q: How does using Makaton benefit the college?

Liam: It promotes speech alongside signing, encouraging communication across all pathways. If everyone in college learned Makaton, it would enable students to communicate across the entire college, making it more inclusive.

Louis: Yeah, it's good. It makes the college more inclusive.

Q: Is Makaton very important to you, Liam?

Liam: Absolutely. Makaton provides a voice to those who might not be able to talk. It makes communication more inclusive, allowing everyone to interact with each other.

Q: Do you have any more questions for me?

Louis: I think we've covered everything. Thank you, Liam.

Liam: You're welcome. Do you think the Everton players should learn Makaton?

Louis: Definitely! It would be great to see them using their hands for something useful.

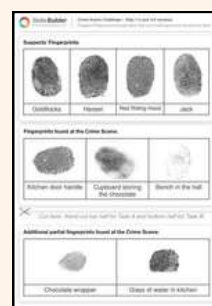
SKILLS BUILDER

VOC Pathway Students Dive into Crime Scene Investigation

VOC Pathway Students Dive into Crime Scene Investigation

Over the past few weeks, students in the Voc Pathway have been immersed in an exciting Crime Scene scenario. This engaging activity has allowed them to develop a wide array of skills that are essential for employability and adulthood. Throughout this project, students have honed their abilities in:

- Listening
- Speaking
- Problem Solving
- Creativity
- Staying Positive
- Aiming High
- Leadership
- Teamwork



As part of their investigation, students like Mya, David, and Sam have been diligently collecting evidence to support their final presentations. Each group will soon reveal their conclusions in a “Who Dun It” presentation, where they will explain who they believe the culprit is and why.



MATHS IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Learning with Lynn King's Group

This term, Lynn Kings group have been busy working on their personal progress skills. The group has accessed the community, practised their maths skills using everyday objects, become more confident with their communication skills, using pictures and objects to make choices and overall had fun whilst learning. The group love being together and we've had the best term making memories.



WILDLIFE

Creating new wildlife hedge

Recently, the Conservation group engaged in a dry hedge building project. Using coppiced wood, the team collaborated to construct a new hedge boundary in a section of the woods. This new hedge not only marks a boundary but also creates a fresh habitat for the local wildlife.

Their efforts have contributed significantly to the environment, showcasing teamwork and dedication to conservation. Great job, everyone!



BEACH TRIP

Widening Horizons trip to the coast

Some of the ILP Widening Horizon students were treated to a day at the seaside. We had a fantastic time exploring the sights, sounds, and tastes of Rhyl and Llandudno. The weather was stunning, and we even managed to avoid the seagulls stealing our chips.



ILP STUDENTS EXPLORE GLEBE FARM

The visit was a moo-ving experience for everyone.

This term, ILP students had an exciting visit to Glebe Farm as part of their Widening Horizons session. For many in the group, it was their first time at the farm, and they thoroughly enjoyed meeting various animals and learning fascinating facts about them.

The visit was a wonderful opportunity for the students to broaden their experiences and connect with nature. Great job, everyone!



EID EVENT

College Hosts Ramadan and Eid Celebration

Written by Zahnah using 'Speech to Text'

On Wednesday, April 17th, our college came together to celebrate Ramadan and Eid with a special event planned and hosted by Zaynah, Malaika, and Aliza. The event, which started at 1 PM, was open to the entire college community. Attendees were encouraged to make a £1 donation, with all proceeds going to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Malaika's Experience: "I started by creating the playlist and then decorated the hall by myself. I wanted to raise money for charity, so I made a poster to inform everyone about the event. I dressed up for the occasion, prepared food with others, and gave a presentation to explain the significance of Eid. At home, I visit friends and family, enjoy playing with my cousins, and listen to music."



Zaynah's Experience: "We had different songs to match our festival, various foods, and a presentation. We collected money for charity and dressed up for the event. I wore a black Asian suit and jewelry. Eid is a time for everyone to gather, share prayers, and enjoy desserts together."

Eid Delicacies:

- Samosa
- Kebab
- Lasagna
- Rice
- Curry
- Rice pudding
- Ice sundae

The event was a wonderful opportunity for the college community to come together, celebrate, and support a good cause.

SHOPPING BUDDIES

Update from Zoe's shopping buddies

Amazing year for the Shopping Buddies this year. We have expanded our service to Berryhill, and from their feedback, they said they do not know how they coped without our services. We are looking forward to continuing to provide the service to the Oaks and Berryhill next year and maybe expanding further. The students have learnt so many skills this year and have spoken about how they feel much more confident around new people



TRADES

Update from Andy and the trades pathway

This year, the trades group has been learning how to wire a 3-pin plug and trying their hand at laying bricks.

At the start of the year, we learned how to take a plug apart and then rewire it with new cable. After just a few weeks of practice, the team could do a really good job of it!



In the second half of the year, we progressed to making mortar and laying bricks. This involved learning the ratios of sand and cement needed to make mortar, which they then used to lay the bricks together. The group got really into this, laying bricks in many different bonding styles.

In conjunction with bricklaying, the team visited a working brick manufacturing factory in Chesterton, where they saw the entire process of brick making.

DISCOVERING MUSIC THERAPY

Julia gives her insight to Music Therapy at Newfriars College

Who are you?

"My name is Julia Prince, and I am a music therapist."

What do you do?

"I come to Newfriars College twice a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays, where I work with learners to create music and explore its therapeutic benefits."

How do you help the learners through music therapy?

"I firmly believe that everyone has musical potential. From the rhythms of blinking and breathing to the unique ways we all move; music is a universal language that transcends words. It allows our learners to express a range of emotions, whether it is joy, anger, or sadness, without needing to articulate them verbally. This form of expression can be incredibly beneficial for mental health, fostering self-expression and well-being."



What is your favourite thing about Newfriars College?

When asked about her favourite aspect of working at Newfriars, Julia beams, "The learners! They are such great fun, and every day is different. I never know what's going to happen until somebody walks through the door, and we start making music. It's exciting, and that's why I love it here."

In addition to her regular music therapy sessions, Julia also organises a singing club every Wednesday. This club has become incredibly popular with our learners, providing them with a joyful and engaging musical outlet.

Julia's dedication to using music as a tool for emotional expression and community building exemplifies the inclusive spirit of Newfriars College. Her work not only enriches the lives of our learners but also contributes to a supportive and vibrant college environment.

LUNCHTIME SQUAD

Lunchtime Supervisors at Newfriars College

At Newfriars College, our lunchtime supervisors play an essential role in ensuring a smooth and enjoyable lunchtime for our students. Their tasks go beyond simply managing the lunch period; they are the unsung heroes who contribute to a positive college environment every day.

A Day in the Life of a Lunchtime Supervisor

From the moment lunch begins, our supervisors are busy with a variety of tasks. They help students by cutting up food, washing trays, and emptying bin bags. They also maintain cleanliness throughout the dining area, ensuring that the environment is safe and welcoming for everyone. Their main goal is to make sure students have a pleasant lunchtime experience, allowing them to enjoy their meals in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

What They Love About Their Job

When asked about their favourite part of working at Newfriars College, the lunchtime supervisors unanimously agree: it's the positivity of the students. "The students are the best part," they say. "Their positivity is contagious, and it's wonderful to see them enjoying their time at lunch." This positive interaction is not just rewarding but also inspires the supervisors in their daily tasks.



Watching Students Grow

Beyond the immediate tasks of lunch supervision, these dedicated staff members find joy in watching the students progress throughout their time at Newfriars College. Seeing students grow, both academically and personally, adds a deeper sense of fulfilment to their work. It's not just about managing lunchtime; it's about being a part of the students' overall development and success.

A Big Thank You

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our lunchtime supervisors for their hard work and dedication. They ensure that lunchtime at Newfriars College is a time of joy, safety, and positivity for all students. Their commitment helps create a nurturing environment where students can thrive.

RECEPTION REALITIES: A DAY IN THE LIFE

From Hatch to Heartbeat: The Vital Role of Our Receptionist

Meet Our Receptionist: The Heart of Newfriars College.

As you enter the main entrance of New Fries College, the first person you're likely to encounter is our friendly and dedicated receptionist. Sitting at the reception hatch, their role is crucial in ensuring the smooth operation of the college and the safety of everyone within it.

Our receptionist's day begins with signing in visitors, a task that ensures only authorized individuals gain access to the building. This vigilance is a key part of maintaining a secure environment for our students. In addition to visitor management, our receptionist diligently checks the registers to track student attendance. If a student is absent, they promptly call home to understand the reason and ensure the student's well-being.

The role extends far beyond these responsibilities. Answering phones, handling a multitude of administrative tasks, and addressing the needs of the busy office are all part of a day's work. Their ability to manage these varied tasks with efficiency and a smile is truly admirable.



What's Your Favourite Thing About Newfriars College?

When asked about their favourite aspect of working at Newfriars College, our receptionist didn't hesitate: "The students. They are amazing, inspiring, and put a smile on my face every day." It's clear that the vibrant and enthusiastic student body is a source of joy and motivation, making every day at Newfriars College a rewarding experience.

CELEBRATING PRIDE

Independent Living Skills Students Celebrate Pride with a Self-Organised Party!

Our Independent Living Skills students recently showcased their culinary and organisational talents by hosting a delightful Pride celebration. They prepared an array of delicious treats, including homemade sandwiches and ice cream, and set a festive table with sausage rolls, crisps, and cakes. The students also crafted and sent out personalised party invitations. The event was a resounding success, filled with dancing, laughter, and joyful moments spent with friends. We're incredibly proud of their hard work and the vibrant community spirit they demonstrated!



BEE ACTIVE

Celebrating Becky's Impactful Year

Meet Becky:

Becky has been a dedicated member of Bee Active for a while now. Her passion for engaging young people in sports shines through in every session she leads. Becky had an exciting year, running numerous sessions across all pathways. Here's a look at what we've been up to:

Monday and Tuesday Mornings:

Becky has been visiting Newfriars College on Mondays and Tuesdays, providing fun and engaging sessions that help learners develop key life skills. In the ILP sessions, we've focused on improving communication and confidence, all while having a blast playing pizza tag.



Monday Afternoons:

The SLP students joined us in the hall for physical activity sessions. We used a variety of equipment and enjoyed working together with our friends.

Exploring New Sports:

Bee Active has been closely collaborating with Bee Active to explore new sports. Jack and Dave have been gaining valuable experience through their work placements every Monday.

Lunchtime Fun:

Our most popular sessions have been at lunchtime, where students from all pathways come together for archery, penalty shootouts, and basketball. We even have a little boogie to keep the energy high!

Thank you for an amazing year, and we can't wait to see you all next year!

Find out more about Bee Active
<https://beeactive.co.uk/>

POSITIVE STEPS

Reflecting on a Busy Term

As we wrap up another busy term, we reflect on a year filled with hard work and achievements at Positive Steps, Newfrairs. Our students have shown incredible dedication, striving to improve and reach their goals. While we are sad to bid farewell to those leaving us this year, we are equally excited to welcome new students and continue our journey together.

Looking ahead, we are pleased to announce that next year, we will be at the college two days a week. Our aim is to integrate even more with the current curriculum, enhancing the support we provide during sessions.

We are looking forward to a restful summer and can't wait to return next year for more fun and progress!

Warm regards,
Ellen and Gemma



POSITIVE STEPS
PHYSIOTHERAPY



AIR FRYED AND CONQUERED

Independent living skills with air fryers

The Independent Living Skills (ILS) program in ILP has been exploring air fryers, with learners mastering this versatile appliance. They've created delicious dishes like homemade chips, lemon drizzle cake, scones, bagel pizzas, diced paprika potatoes, and red velvet cake. Each session showcases their growing kitchen confidence.

Highlights include the “scrumptious” red velvet cake, air-fried croissants, vanilla sponge cake, and a hearty bean stew. Learners were asked to share their thoughts:

- Rahila: “I like the air fryer buttons and making cakes.”
- Declan: “Making cakes.”
- Mariann: “Easy to use and making cakes.”



ANGLESEY ADVENTURE

Wild at Heart Residential

The first week of July marked our inaugural 'Wild at Heart' residential on the stunning island of Anglesey, and what an incredible few days it was! Despite a wet start, our spirits remained high, and we were fortunate enough to enjoy some beautiful walks once the clouds cleared, revealing the epic landscapes.

The highlight of our wildlife encounters was undoubtedly the spectacular seabird colonies at South Stack. The sight of these magnificent birds in their natural habitat was truly awe-inspiring and left a lasting impression on all of us.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and made this experience so special. We look forward to many more adventures together!



REAL WORLD LEARNING

Everyday Maths and English Group Explores Hanley

The Everyday Maths and English group took their learning into the real world by using public transport to travel to Hanley. Students engaged in various activities, including examining bus departure and arrival times, reading analogue and digital clocks, understanding different time units, and coordinating their trip to ensure they were at the bus stop on time. Additionally, they practised identifying bus numbers and stands at the bus stop to locate the correct bus. In Hanley, each learner had a task to find an item, read its price, and calculate the money needed, applying the skills they've been learning since September. The learners are thoroughly enjoying their trips to Hanley, where they're experiencing natural learning moments, and their confidence in using public transport is truly impressive. As an added bonus, during one of our journeys, we had the unexpected opportunity of meeting a Policeman!



EMMA'S GROUP

Midsummer Scoops, Supermarket Scrambles, and D-Day Reflections

Learners visited Hanley Park to enjoy an ice cream in the sunshine on Midsummer's Day. They observed the D-Day decorations and discussed the importance of remembering the soldiers.

Emma's other group spent time in Longton, locating items in a local supermarket and then showcasing their table football talents in the town centre. The game got a little heated and Dan the ref had to show a red card! Thankfully, things calmed down after that and Benjamin became positively angelic!



THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT

A Tribute to Our Students By Julian M

The Future's Bright

Learning is something we do every day
Looking for answers and finding our way.
Learning is more than just grades and exams,
Shaping a world that we can understand.

Supporting each other can help us to grow
Being able to share all the things that we know.
Don't be afraid to reach out if you're struggling,
We all have those issues and fears that we're juggling.

Newfriars will never be any old college,
Yes, we deal in achievements and improving your knowledge.
But way beyond that, you should know that we care
For the time that you're with us, we'll always be there.

The day will arrive when it's time to move on
Looking back on the fantastic things that you've done.
The future is waiting, all shiny and new
And always remember, we're so proud of you.



MENTAL HEALTH

Maintaining Mental Health During Summer Holidays

Summer holidays are a great time for relaxation and fun, but they can also challenge mental health due to changes in routine, social pressures, and feelings of loneliness. Here are some tips to help maintain good mental health during the summer break:

1. Maintain a Routine While it's tempting to abandon schedules, having some structure can be beneficial:

- **Regular Sleep Schedule:** Go to bed and wake up at consistent times to ensure adequate rest.
- **Daily Activities:** Plan your days with a mix of chores, hobbies, and relaxation to maintain a sense of purpose.

2. Stay Active Physical activity is crucial for mental well-being:

- **Exercise:** Engage in activities like walking, cycling, swimming, or dancing to boost your mood.
- **Outdoor Activities:** Spend time in nature to reduce stress and improve your mood.

3. Connect with Others Social connections are vital for mental health:

- **Family and Friends:** Stay in touch with loved ones through in-person or virtual means.
- **Community Activities:** Participate in local events or online communities to meet new people.

4. Practice Self-Care Self-care helps you relax and recharge:

- **Mindfulness and Relaxation:** Practice mindfulness, meditation, or yoga to reduce anxiety.
- **Hobbies:** Engage in activities you enjoy, like reading, art, or gardening.

5. Manage Screen Time Balance screen time to stay connected without feeling overwhelmed:

- **Limit Social Media:** Be mindful of your social media use and take breaks if needed.
- **Positive Content:** Follow accounts that promote positivity and well-being.

6. Seek Support if Needed Recognise when you need help:

- **Talk to Someone:** If you're feeling low, talk to a trusted friend, family member, or professional.
- **Professional Help:** Seek professional support if needed. Many services offer counseling and mental health resources.

See Weblinks for more advice

- <https://www.poplarsmc.nhs.uk/2023/07/31/summer-holidays-caring-for-your-mental-health/>
- <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/professional/resources/self-care-support-over-the-summer-holiday>
- <https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/boost-your-mental-health-during-the-school-holidays/>
- <https://www.barnardos.org.uk/blog/5-tips-maintaining-good-mental-health-during-summer>
- <https://bestforyou.org.uk/summer-holiday-wellbeing-tips/>

FAREWELL MESSAGE

Good Luck to our learners who are moving on



How lucky we are at Newfriars to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard.

Before we say farewell to our leavers, I just want to thank you for being such a brilliant group of young people. It is truly amazing all the things you have achieved whilst being at Newfriars College.

I cannot express how extremely proud we all are of you. You have amazed us with your attitude, your willingness to try new opportunities, and your enthusiasm in everything you do.

Each and every one of you is unique, and we are so proud to say you were a part of our family at College.

You have been inspiring, and we thank you for being a great ambassador for Newfriars College and our local community.

I know that you will all continue to work hard, and wherever the future takes you, I hope you look back at your time at Newfriars College with great pride.

We wish you all the very best for your future.

Take care and keep in touch.

Rob Millington and All the Staff at Newfriars College

Happy Farewell

Dear Students,
Wishing you all the very best
for the future.
May you all be successful
and happy in life.

NEWFRIARS COLLEGE CALENDAR 2024/25

	College open
	Holiday
	Open for New Students Only

September 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30						

October 2024						
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November 2024						
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December 2024						
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January 2025						
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February 2025						
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March 2025						
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April 2025						
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May 2025						
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June 2025						
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July 2025						
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August 2025						
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**WISHING
EVERYONE
A FANTASTIC
SUMMER**

