



# Winter Newsletter 2019



**Horizons Specialist Academy Trust**  
*Providing infinite opportunities*

# Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome to our winter newsletter in which we hope you will find many exciting reports about the events that have happened at the Sixth Form over the last term.

Such events include, Awards Evening, Halloween and Christmas Drama Productions, Enterprise Trade Fair, the Big Soup Share, Supported Work Placements, Volunteering and Parental Learning Sessions, to name but a few! Students have also supported and raised money this term for UNICEF, Young Minds and Children in Need as well as continuing with the regular Friday volunteering slot with Environmental City and Stillington Rangers.

This term we have also had fantastic support from many organisations to further enrich our personal development programme. Groups have been working alongside digital creatives through the Digital Literacy Programme, Brooks, Citizen Advice Bureau, Police Community Support Team and the Safe Place scheme.

Several students have also been out on work placements this term which have all proved very successful and we have received amazing employer feedback! Placements include Radio Stitch, Yappy Days, Family Hub Café, Shaw Trust, Stockton Catering and a local primary school. Thank you to the local employers for supporting us this term.

We are also proud of our student's achievements in the inclusive world skills competitions. This term students have competed against other local SEN providers in both the Hair Styling and Christmas Craft categories. Next term the students will be showcasing their independent living skills.

Thank you once again to all of the staff, students and parents for their support and efforts this term. We look forward to the new challenges that face us in the New Year and to the students returning back to Sixth Form on Monday 6th January 2020.

Have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kathryn Thompson

Principal

Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form



# The National Citizen Service (NCS)

The NCS scheme is a 4 week programme, which brings together young people from different backgrounds and helps them develop greater confidence, self-awareness and responsibility. It encourages personal and social development by working on skills like leadership, teamwork and communication.

Participants develop a social action project to deal with a local issue they're passionate about, and spend 30 hours putting the project into action in their community. On completion the students receive the V 30 award.

We are extremely proud of Poppy for completing her summer NCS programme. She completed the residential programme and also a youth social action project supporting '5 Lamps'.



# Who made all the pies?

**Group 2 putting the pears from our orchard to good use when making their seasonal crumbles!**

**Students collected pears and apples from the college fruit trees and made seasonal crumbles to sell for their business enterprise project. They made over 20 crumbles and sold them to staff and family.**





# Big Hair Day

**Staff and students promoting 'Big Hair Day' and the right to be different!**

**Big Hair Day aims to change negative attitudes towards afro hair into positive inclusion. Straight hair is considered the epitome of success and beauty and it is promoted every day, through fairy tales, films, television, social media, consumer products and advertising etc. Afro-hair is rarely celebrated, especially globally and World Afro Day seeks to change this. The vision is to create a platform to celebrate and educate people about afro hair.**



# Group 1 “Find Their Marbles”

**Group 1 in their Asdan creativity lesson, undertaking marbling and mosaics.**

**As part of their ASDAN Towards independence, Group 1 used a variety of inks to marble paper to use in presentations, making pictures, and in decorating stones. They followed instructions to the letter to make some beautiful designs. Students sold some stones at Stockton Sparkles.**



# Work Experience

**Chloe has been enjoying her placement at the Family Hub Café in Billingham. She has been helping prepare and serve food to paying customers and is doing a great job.**





# Group 1 are the Pick Of The Crop

**Group 1 harvesting their crops in preparation for the Big Soup Share in college.**





# The Big Soup Share!

Group 1 harvested vegetables that they had sown earlier in the year. On the morning of the event they prepared them; washing, peeling, and chopping their veg. The group worked brilliantly as a team to ensure they were ready to cook in the afternoon. The group cooked up a pan of luscious leek and potato soup, and a batch of comforting carrot and coriander soup.

Family and friends were invited to the kitchen to enjoy a veritable feast of soup. It was gorgeous.

The students were excellent hosts. Well done group 1!



# John Muir have a “Pressing Engagement”

The John Muir Group have got off to a flying start in their Discovery Award. Having spent some time researching details on John Muir and our own local explorer; Captain James Cook, we have since been busy supporting the conservation work at Stillington Forest Park and Environment City Middlesbrough. We have also got ourselves involved in a touch of beach-combing, ensuring the beach at North Gare is litter free. However, the highlight so far has been helping to collect in the crop of apples from the Environment City orchard. We were able to use some of the crop for pressing to make our own apple juice. The photos below show the group in all stages of the process, from pulping to pressing, all the way through to bottling and best of all...  
tasting!



## DIY Group realise their Polytunnel Vision

The new DIY group have successfully completed a make over of the Stephenson Polytunnel, this was started over a year ago by the previous group. The new look space now has 2 raised beds for planting and has extra paving to make it more accessible for our students who use a wheelchair. It's all set for next Spring's growing season.



**The Stephenson Polytunnel  
September 2018**



**The NEW Stephenson  
Polytunnel October 2019**



# It's All Starting To Make "Sense"

The DIY group is keen to add the finishing touches to the new Sensory Garden which is approaching completion after the hard work that's been done by the Shaw Trust. Giving the outer fence of the sensory garden a much needed lick of metallic paint is first on our list but there'll be plenty more for us to do as we approach planting season next Spring.



The original space October 2017



The space cleared by the DIY group from September to November 2018



The almost completed Sensory Garden Project 2019

# Careers Fayre

**Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form hosted a careers fayre for the young people to speak with potential colleges and training providers for when they leave the Sixth Form.**

**The event was supported by:**

**Pro active training**

**SRC college**

**Bede Sixth Form**

**Skills Academy**

**Middlesbrough college**

**Job centre plus**

**Project choice**

**Shaw Trust**

**Askham Bryan**

**Youth Direction**

**A huge hank you to everyone involved.**



# Let's play Golf!

As part of the Friday afternoon vocational programme, the Sport and Leisure group graced the fairways of Knotty Hill Golf Centre, Sedgefield.

The students received expert instruction on how to hold the club correctly, the importance of balance and keeping their heads down and eyes on the ball!

After an intensive 1 hour Jack Devey won the longest drive competition, but it is *fair* to say a good time was had by all.





## Bilquees has us all in “Stitches”

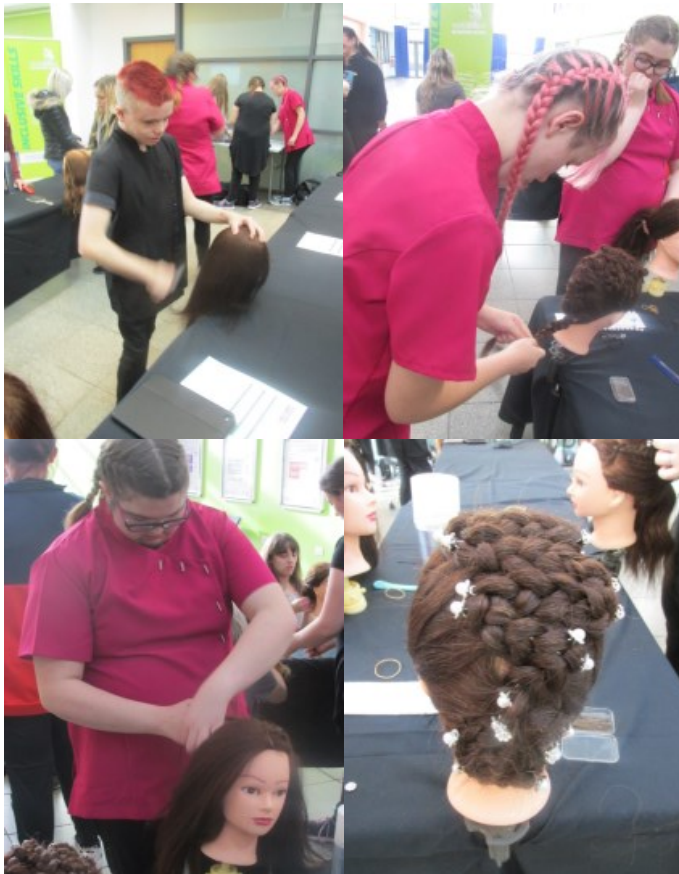
**Bilquees started her work placement at Radio Stitch. She broadcasted each Thursday morning across the North Tees and Hartlepool Hospitals. What a fantastic Job. Well done Bilquees.**



# Students have a “Hair-Raising” experience

**Students in the hair salon group showcased their talents at New College Durham in preparation for the Inclusive World Skills Hair competition in January.**

**The students worked alongside other local colleges in the area to demonstrate their talents in hair 'up dos'.**



# Group 1 spend their reward

Group 1 were awarded a special treat of £50 from Team Happy for all the hard work they put into the big soup share.

They chose to spend their money on a trip to Wetherspoons for breakfast.

The group ordered their breakfast of choice, then enjoyed a good relax, chat and nosh. The food and company were great. Well done to Group 1 for all their hard work, and thanks to Team Happy for making our morning possible. We are a very happy, and well fed group!





# Group 1 do some 'Yogacise'

Group 1 have been enjoying Yogacise on Friday mornings. The group have done a brilliant job of following the routine and trying out new moves. They have really enjoyed the gentle exercise and the chill out.



# Hello Hello Hello

As part of the students' English Functional Skills Entry Level qualification, Geoff Illingworth, a school liaison officer from Cleveland Police, came in to talk to the students in Groups 3 and 5 to contribute to their current module 'Emergency Services'. Geoff spoke about his role and how to identify a real policeman to keep people safe. He also dispelled some common myths and reinforced the message that Police Officer's main role is to keep members of the public safe. The students had the chance to ask Geoff some questions that they had pre planned in English lessons. The students also had chance to try on different pieces of police uniform, review some specialist equipment and all thoroughly enjoyed the session.



## Group 1 & 2 students Lead a Sheltered Life

Group 1 and 2 students enjoyed building a shelter in the woodland.

The outdoor learning group had a fantastic time. They worked out where to place the shelter, then used branches, rope and tarpaulins to construct the shelter. The teamwork was amazing. The shelter kept the group warm and wind free.





# Ceramic Crafts

**Poppy made a ceramic fish as part of her Asdan ceramics course. She used coil building to make the fish and designed the fish herself.**



# Computer Aided Design (CAD)

**Students have been working on their entry level qualifications in Product Design/Preparing for Work. They have designed and modelled a product of their choice using CAD (Computer Aided Design) to produce virtual models and are now using a range of tools and equipment to make their product in the workshop.**



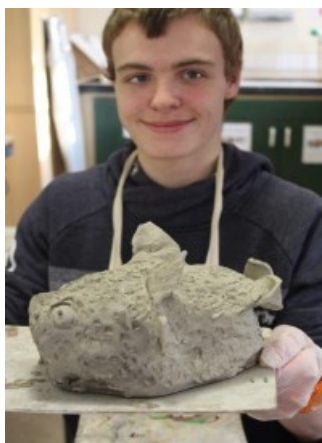
# Living in a Digital World

Pathway 3 students completed their 4 week digital life programme, where they worked through 8 themes to develop digital citizenship, resilience and safety to live in the modern digital world. The group were supported by Digital Creatives UK.



# Using the Potters Wheel

Group 5 & 7 have been studying ceramics. They have looked at the work of Clarice Cliff and 'threw a pot' on the potter's wheel. They created a fish design using the coil building method.





# Group 1 “Just Eat”

Group 1 have been busy in The Bistro this term. They have been learning new skills, running a jacket potato and panini business. They work as a team to prepare, cook and deliver food to staff who order. The students have done a fabulous job.



# Halloween Spooktacular

The Sheraton drama option terrified their audience with their annual Halloween Spooktacular Show. The show was all the student's own ideas, they worked hard to create their characters and build a frightening plot with scary songs. Everyone gave a chilling performance and all students involved were petrifying. Well done to the group, they were amazing.



# Students Sparkle At Stockton Market

Group 1,2,and 3 students headed out to Stockton Sparkles Market. They manned a stall selling goods they had made in their enterprise options. The students made excellent salespeople and were confident in talking to members of the public, and handling money. Friends and family came in abundance to support. Many thanks to them. Everyone sold with a smile on their face and excellent manners. A great day was had by all. We are very proud of this fantastic bunch.





**Have a great Winter break from all at  
Abbey Hill Academy Sixth Form!**



**If you would like any further information or would like to contact a member of staff the contact details can be found below:**

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