

The Bridge Newsletter

Spring 24/25



Wow! What a fantastic second term we have had. The highlight has to be the whole college pantomime, 'Snow White and the Seven Spies' but has also seen a number of our learners secure work experience placements. Well done to Shafi who now completes work experience one day a week at, James, Lucy and Ocean who volunteer at Turnbull Court Care Home, Gabriel, Hashim, Malaika and Caitlin who recently started at the Equestrian Centre in Middleton and Michael & Thomas P who are now part of BCCs maintenance team after smashing their interview. Thomas Barber, Ryan and Karl continue to attend Lotherton Hall to complete their Work Experience and Sophia is a valuable member of the Co-Op team. I couldn't be prouder. See the back page for some photos of them in action.

Emma, Post 16 @The Bridge Lead

English

This term in English we have been developing our speaking and listening skills so that we can effectively contribute to discussions, share our opinions and follow expected rules and expected behaviour when conversing. We have also worked on our skills to skim and scan to find information in texts quickly. Finally, we have been developing our writing skills with a focus on emails. These are all skills that are essential in the workplace.

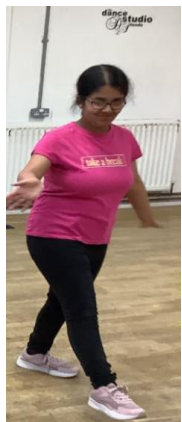
Shop, Cook, Eat

This term we have been looking at different foods from around the world. Students have also been working on their basic cooking skills and ensuring they know about safety in the kitchen .As pictured, we also made pancakes on the appropriate day!



Dance

This half term, we have been learning how to Salsa dance. We have evaluated some Strictly Salsa dances and learnt the basic, side and back step. We have thought about the quality of our movements and had to use our arms to add style to the steps. We have laughed lots, counted hard and concentrated more to learn this tricky new style. As always, the learners have done brilliantly and demonstrated admirable determination and resilience.



Enterprise

This term learners have been exploring their own skills and qualities in terms of what it means to be an enterprising person. Learners were asked to think of ways they could develop or improve their skills and as a result two young people offered their services as “site maintenance assistants” supporting the site maintenance staff employed at the Bridge Community Church. Learners also chose to run a weekly tuck shop – they went shopping for items and set up the stall each Thursday at break time.



Vocational

This term, we have been focusing on customer service skills. We have explored how you would meet and greet a customer, how you should speak to them and the non-verbal communication skills you should use. We have written scripts and used role play to practice what you might say and do in situations where you would interact with customers. The learners have worked real-life and have definitely developed confidence in this area, without exception. I am really proud of them all.

Our final session took place at the M&S archive where they were able to apply their skills in a real life context and consider the roles in retail they might want to do in the future



Independence

This term learners have been learning about setting budgets including income and expenditure. They have learnt about the importance of paying household bills and the consequences of non-payment. Group 1 were tasked with furnishing a bedroom on a budget and visited local charity shop Emmaus to find out if they could do this cheaper than buying all new.

Group 4 were asked to furnish a whole home for £2500 deciding which were needs and wants – some learners were very ‘savvy’ shoppers.



Performing Arts

The school Panto, **Snow White and the Seven Spies** was performed just before half term. There were two performances, one to staff and visitors from within the Bridge building and the other to friends and family.

Whether it was production (making props, costume set and digital backgrounds,) Musicians and singers, Dancers and actors, every learner at the Bridge played some part in this, our first, production.

On behalf of the staff Well done to our learners. We are so proud of you all. You were hard working, brave and very entertaining!



Football

This term our football group was given the opportunity to take part in a football tournament at A1 football factory in Pontefract. While the results didn't go the way we wanted, all the learners had an amazing experience and enjoyed the day.

Bethlehem Boxing

This half term, Michael, Thomas, Reece & Shafi have been putting on their gloves and stepping into the ring as part of an exciting new initiative – weekly boxing sessions designed to promote fitness, confidence and self-discipline. These sessions have quickly become a highlight of the week, offering a fun and engaging way to develop both physical and mental resilience. This has been made possible thanks Lee Murtagh who provides the sessions for free at his gym, Bethlehem Boxing.



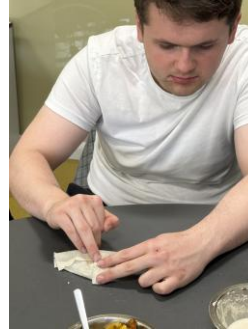
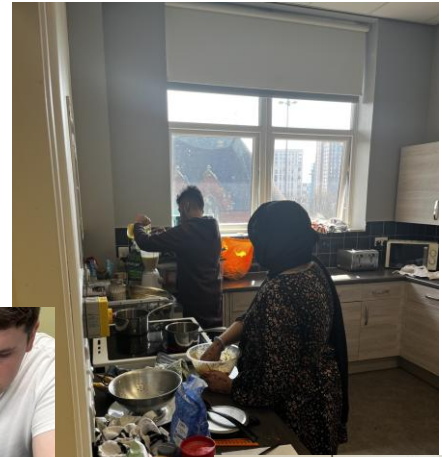
Self-Defence

Students from all groups have been taking part in weekly self-defence classes, developing vital skills that go beyond physical techniques. These sessions are designed to boost confidence, improve coordination, and teach students how to protect themselves in a safe and controlled environment. The teamwork and mutual support among students have been fantastic, reinforcing the importance of respect and cooperation



Ramadan & Eid

To support our learners during Ramadan and to develop an understanding of the sacrifice our Muslim learners and staff make during Ramadan, Hashim and Malaika have worked really hard to prepare a presentation and Kahoot quiz which they delivered to all groups. They have also been in charge of the Eid celebrations which were prepared for today and will take place tomorrow in the theme of an Eid picnic. Although the photos had not been taken in time for printing, here are some taken from the preparations.



Comic Relief

To raise money Comic Relief, all of our learners took to Roundhay Park to participate in a 5k sponsored walk. Thank you to those parents and carers who supported us by joining us there.



Crowne Plaza

As part of a project to connect schools to hospitality, our learners have been working with staff at the Crowne Plaza to explore job opportunities and participate in joint activities. The first session involved staff from the Crowne Plaza visiting us at The Bridge where they shared some information and lead a session on table setting. The second session involved a tour of the Crowne Plaza to learn about all of their different departments. After the holidays, there are 2 further opportunities where the learners will participate in a waffle making and mocktail making masterclass.



Volunteering @ Turnbull Court

James, Lucy and Ocean have been volunteering at Turnbull Court care home's coffee morning, bringing joy, conversation and support to residents. The event has proved to be a meaningful experience for both learners and residents alike.

The learners take on various roles throughout the morning, from serving refreshments to chatting with residents and even helping with light entertainment. Their enthusiasm and kindness shines through, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all involved.



Work Experience

