

Ethos Bonfire

On Tuesday 7th November, Ethos College hosted their very first Bonfire event. The afternoon saw both young people and their families enjoying a fun filled experience which showcased the skills that our young people have learned over the year, during their Forest School sessions. The event was filled with laughter and joy for staff, pupils and parents alike and offered a wide variety of activities for all to take part in, including; roasting marshmallows, making smores on an open fire, creating impressive fireworks in the Science Lab and making patterns with sparklers. The afternoon was finished off with a supper of hotdogs, gingerbread men and hot chocolate topped with marshmallows, all served with kindness from the kitchen by two group 1 students, Paige and Alyssa. It was a great opportunity for our families join us and share a positive experience with other families. It was lovely to receive a text from a parent after the event which read *'Just wanted to say thank you. It was such a lovely bonfire and such a great thing for the kids and parents too. We both really enjoyed it, Thank you.'*

An Opportunity for Counselling at Ethos

In the spring term, we have a counsellor who will be working with some pupils on a 1 to 1 basis to support their social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). Our pupils present with increasingly complex SEMH needs and we are continually adapting as a service to ensure we are meeting these needs. The counsellor will meet weekly with individual pupils, who have requested this support, and will be guided by them for the content of the sessions. This is an area of development at Ethos College and we are looking to the future to consider a sustainable model of support that best supports pupils; therefore, feedback from pupils and parents/carers will be welcomed in order to inform this type of service in the future.



Celebration Events at Ethos College

We love to welcome our families into school and therefore, we hold a number of events throughout the year, where there are opportunities for parents/carers and the wider family to join us. We recently held a Macmillan coffee morning where we had lots of visitors and managed to raise £135 for a very worthy cause. The pupils made the cakes and biscuits on sale, which proved too tempting for our families who quickly snapped them all up. The coffee morning was followed by the celebration event and it was wonderful to see so many families recognising the achievements of our pupils.

We will be holding numerous events, through the school year, that we will be inviting our families to. In December, we have been celebrating Christmas, providing many opportunities for our pupils to enjoy, to make this time of year special. We have loved having families come and join us for Christmas lunches, across the groups, with pupils and staff doing a sterling job of cooking delicious meals for all to enjoy!



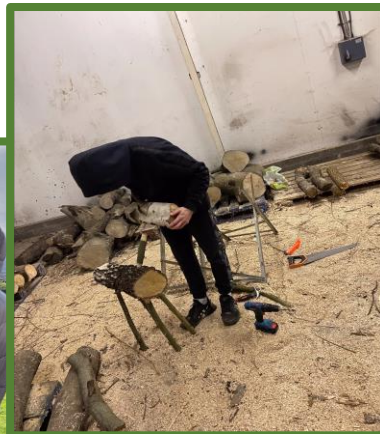
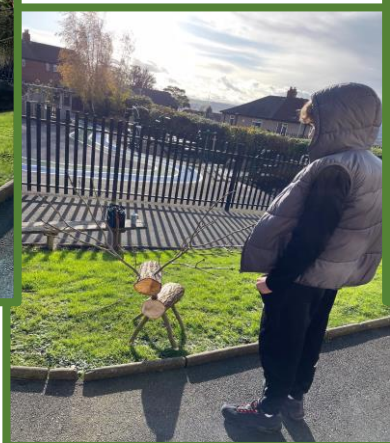
Tree climbing provides young people an opportunity to manage and access their own risk. This is important throughout life especially in young adults. They will become more self aware through these kinds of activities.

Forest School

The ability to identify flora and fauna is extremely important in Forest school sessions. Some plants and fungi are poisonous, like these fly agarics. It is worth noting that fungi should not be disturbed and has a positive impact on our environment.



The use of tools in Forest School can lead to a sense of pride, in turn developing their self esteem. When young people can complete tasks using tools, they will feel accomplishment in their work.



Our Stories Matter

'Even when it's not pretty or perfect. Even when it's more real than you want it to be. Your story is what you have, what you will always have. It is something to own.' Michelle Obama
Humans are natural storytellers. We are made up of stories. We use stories to make sense of our past and better understand who we are as individuals.

At Ethos College, 'Our Stories Matter,' creates a space within the curriculum to explore stories from a wide range of different storytellers and based on a variety of different themes and ideas. It also creates a space for students to explore their own story, as a way to understand their identity and their place in the world, as well as considering how they feel about the issues and topics produced and how they can use their voice to express their viewpoint and help to bring about positive change in the world.

In response, to one of the stories we have been reading, one of our students has written a viewpoint piece about why homelessness is the responsibility of us all.

It is all of our responsibility to help end homelessness

With a cold Winter arising, life for those sleeping rough is sure to get harder and harder in the coming months. And with all of the anti-homeless rhetoric coming from the current UK government, it is all the more important to try and help these people get through the near future.

In the last few months especially, Rishi Sunak's Government have been implementing a lot of legislation designed to make the already difficult lives of homeless people even harder. It seems that the aim of this is to criminalise homelessness in order to get them off the streets, rather than helping and providing them using the overabundance of homes across the UK.

For example, former UK Home Secretary Suella Braverman caused the removal of tents given out to those sleeping rough, saying that "We cannot allow our streets to be taken over by rows of tents occupied by people, many of them from abroad, living on the streets as a lifestyle choice."

This caused many people to criticize Braverman, saying that "It is a new low for Braverman to criminalise homeless charities for simply trying to keep vulnerable people warm and dry in winter."

It is obvious to me that this increase in anti-homeless rhetoric coming from this government is absolutely disgusting. We should be striving to help those sleeping on the streets to find a proper place to live, not forcing them to have to sleep rough, particularly in the tough times of the upcoming winter.

Of course, these aren't the only anti-homeless regulations that have been implemented in the last few years, from benches being built in a way to deter homeless people from being able to sleep on them, but also the opinions of the general public, spurred on by the government.

But in a time where money is very tight for most of the population, and the cost of living crisis continues to cause people to have to choose between eating and having heating, it is no surprise that the homeless population is rising to numbers never before seen. Children, and adults alike are being forced out of their homes because they simply cannot afford to live there anymore, and in a time where temperatures are going down and down, we as a society need to be doing all that we can to help prevent this, and to help those who have already fallen into this unfortunate rabbit hole.

So, what can you do to help? There are many schemes that aim to make the lives of those sleeping rough just that little bit more bearable, so consider trying to look into the 'Pay it Forward' scheme, where you will pay for maybe a meal or other items so that in the future, should someone in need walk through the doors, they are able to get the help that they require.

You can also consider donating to charities and soup kitchens which aim to improve the lives of homeless people by feeding them and potentially even looking for places for them to live.

And if you aren't in a position where you can pay for these things, even just stopping and paying attention to someone sleeping rough can really cause a massive change in a person's life. That one conversation can really give someone a newfound hope in their situation.

Because at the end of the day, living on the streets is not a "lifestyle choice", it is a horrible situation for a person to be in, and we should always try and treat people as what they are, Human.



On Thursday 7th December, it was Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Staff and young people at Ethos College all came together and put on their Christmas jumpers to help raise money for children in the UK and around the world. Christmas Jumper Day isn't just about wearing a silly jumper, but it helps those who are facing terrible things like war, poverty and hunger. By getting involved and giving a small donation, it can really help those in need. So far we have managed to raise £65.50. Well done everyone!

School Council

Our student council has continued to meet, on a half-termly basis, to debate a range of topics that contribute towards improving our school community. The council has already started to improve aspects of school; with the schools rewards system for pupils being the main focus. Pupils have decided on increasing the value of rewards at our half termly celebration events with the aim of motivating pupils to do even better than they already do! The council have also agreed to hold an event, before each celebration event, that raises money for a nominated charity or organisation. In October, this involved holding a coffee morning that raised money for McMillian Cancer Research and in December, pupils have planned a Christmas Fayre to raise money for the Salvation Army. We look forward to keeping you updated about the fantastic work that our student council do!

Throughout the year, each half term, we will be providing pupils with the opportunity to attend different extra curricular trips! For this half term, pupils visited Odeon Cinema, in Huddersfield, where they watched the new Marvels film and we also managed to find time for a McDonalds beforehand. Pupil's behaviour was outstanding and we look forward to being able to offer more trips in the future!

The STOP Family Programme

This is an exciting opportunity for families to share their experiences, within a safe environment, to be able to speak with other parents/carers in similar circumstances. The programme ran successfully, last year, and we are delighted to facilitate this again so more families can take part and seek support from the professionals delivering the programme as well as other parents/carers.

This is run by two experienced colleagues from the West Yorkshire ADHD group and the Ministry of Parenting with the following main aims:

- Gain an increased understanding of your young person and their needs.
- Learn strategies that will help you and your young person improve both your relationship and home/school experience.
- Improve family dynamics and consider long-term solutions to promote positive change.
- Build a support network with other parents/carers dealing with similar challenges.

The STOP support programme has been designed to support parents/carers/families of young people who need further understanding to attend school and engage positively. The group will take place on Wednesdays between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. If you would like any further information or to discuss how we can address any barriers to you attending, please contact Diane Parkinson: dparkinson@eat.uk.com or 01924469170.