

ETHOS COLLEGE

# BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Nurturing inclusive learning communities

## Head of School Introduction – Mandeep Little

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Head of School at Ethos College. I feel very privileged to have been appointed to the role.

I have worked at Ethos College for the past 6 years as Deputy Head and Assistant Head. Prior to Ethos College, I worked in a mainstream Secondary School in Castleford as an Assistant Principal. I have a passion for ensuring that all children have access to a high quality education to raise aspirations and build character so that they are ready for life in modern day Britain.

I am looking forward to building on the work that Rebecca has done to continuously improve the school and I will be listening to the views of our pupils and parents/carers to help shape the future of Ethos College.



### Cross Curricular Lessons

Over the past half-term, we have been exploring students interests in Cross-Curricular lessons. Group 1 have been learning about the role of animals in war, showing sensitivity and understanding. Group 5 have created their own characters and storylines for Eastenders, showing amazing teamwork and creativity. Group 2 have used their skills in their Gothic Adventure sessions and have risen to the challenge of teacher takeover lessons, where they have created their own mini-lessons for us to get involved in over the past few weeks. We have been so impressed at the fantastic sessions they have created which involved arts and crafts, cooking and football. Well done everyone!

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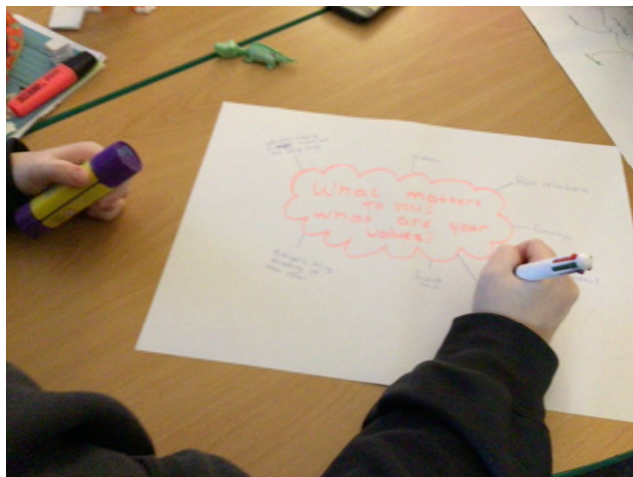
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## My Voice Matters - Children's Mental Health Week 2024

The theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year is 'My voice matters'. During personal development lessons, we have focused on the importance of using our voice in a positive manner and exploring how the young people can implement change within school and the wider communities.

The pupils then brainstormed ideas about what mattered to them and how they could use their voices create positive change. They picked out their important values and used their artistic skills to display them around the group rooms in picture frames. The pupils produced some wonderful work, and all got involved in the discussion around mental health and young people. We also discussed how to continue the theme of 'My voice matters' throughout the school year through school councils, surveys and maybe even an Ethos College podcast – watch this space...



## Forest School

Over the past few weeks at Forest School, our young people have been building up their resilience and problem solving when it comes to their culinary skills in the woods. There have been some brilliant successes, which were seen when we baked bread in the dutch oven on the fire embers, along with spiced cheeses to have on nachos and chocolate waffles.



It was also great to see the young people put their baking skills to the test by attempting to make buns to celebrate Paula's birthday. These looked great in the dutch oven, however, they did not have the most pleasant taste. We also attempted to make a cookie, which tasted great but was not aesthetically pleasing to the eye, due to it burning quickly!

## Hospitality and catering

To celebrate the Chinese New Year, and the year of the dragon our hospitality and catering students have prepared a Chinese meal, Salt and Pepper Chicken with rice. To make it authentic, each young person served their dish with a fortune cookie that shared an inspirational message or positive affirmation. The aroma from the kitchen was oriental and exquisite, and the food was divine.



## Rewards Trip

Group 4 went on a trip to laser quest last Friday for their attendance reward. The group have won the award for two consecutive half terms and so enjoyed a treat in McDonalds too! They visited laser zone at Xscape and had so much fun. The games became quite competitive with everyone getting involved. The group were a pleasure to take offsite and were a credit to Ethos. Well done to Alfie who won both games and took it all very seriously!



## Mental Health: Our Voice Matters

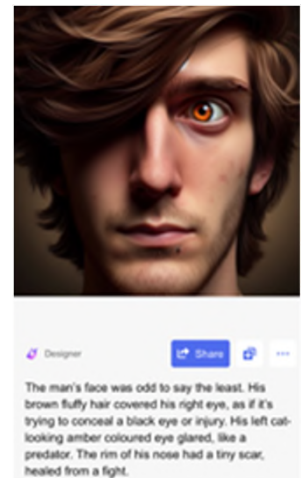
In English, we have been exploring the evolution of mental health: its treatment and the attitudes towards it. We explored some of the negative connotations behind the word 'mental' and how there are many negative associations (despite the fact that the word literally means 'mind').

As we are currently exploring the contrasts between writer's perspectives from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the contemporary, we looked back at Victorian asylums and made some interesting discoveries. Did you know that the word 'asylum' means safe space or refuge? Victorian asylums were very far from this, often incarcerating patients and exposing them to risky and unfounded treatments, such as restraint, isolation and disease? We also discovered that the word 'lunatic' is related to the lunar cycle and that Victorian doctors believed strongly that the moon had cyclical effects on mental health - especially in those with epilepsy. Most shockingly, we were appalled that the word 'hysterical' derives from the noun 'hyster' meaning womb- scientists believed that some of the 'behaviours' associated with women, such as excitedly talking and speaking out against men, were disorders of the mind and directly associated with the reproductive organs of a woman!

Thank goodness we have more awareness of mental health today. Well done to all our Ethos students for contributing maturely to emotive discussions.

## Artificial intelligence:

In group 5, we have been embracing life. Students created characters using specific verbs and adjectives and then generated an image of their description. The results were fabulous- well done team! Technology in the classroom. Using our amazing descriptive skills, we have used AI to bring them to life.



## Child Development

In Child Development, we had some little visitors as our class welcomed two lovely three-year-olds to come and play! The children were treated to age-appropriate activities, such as block building, drawing and small world play. Our wonderful students facilitated the learning through their research of age-appropriate development tasks. They were welcoming, mature and nurturing. As we walked the little people round Ethos to let them explore, students were all accommodating and respectful. One lucky toddler was even treated to a performance on the piano from our resident pianist.

