

Christmas

Term News

REVIEW OF THE TERM

We have enjoyed a very busy and productive term. Thank you to all the staff and learners for their hard work. We hope you enjoy reading some of our highlights below, along with reminders regarding Centre life.

Learners have engaged in a variety of careers events including mock interviews, workplace visits and career planning meetings. In addition, we have welcomed The Turn Around Project into Centre to work with learners on the dangers of addiction. The English department had a successful trip to the London Dungeons to help develop Year 11 Creative Writing. Year 11 have also engaged with their first 'Mini Mocks' to help gain experience of the exam process ready for the Summer.

It was wonderful to welcome so many families to our Learner Review

Snapshot of the term Christmas Lunch



Afternoon. You should have received a copy of your child's end-of-term report and updated the contacts sheet. If you have not received this or have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's Link Mentor, in the first instance.

Term starts for all learners on Monday 6th January 2025. We look forward to seeing everyone back in Centre. Thank you to everyone - learners, families, and staff - for making DESC a place where Respect, Aspiration, and Resilience continue to grow, to support all to 'Be the Best you can Be'. Wishing you all a peaceful and restful holiday season.

All at DESC



CENTRE REMINDERS

Absence

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential if learners are to make good progress and to gain the appropriate skills to equip them for life. Lateness and absence are recorded, monitored and followed up. In line with the new statutory attendance regulations, please contact reception for a leave of absence form if your child will be absent from Centre for a planned reason. Only in exceptional circumstances will such absences be authorised. Please ensure appointment confirmation is provided for any medical appointments.

If your child is going to be absent for any reason please contact the Centre on the number below:

Barncroft Campus
01442 2 47476 Option 2

If we have received no explanation for your child's absence, we will telephone parents/carers to ascertain the reason for absence.

Ofsted
Outstanding
Provider



Careers Trips and Events

This term, learners have participated in a variety of career-related experiences both on-site and off-site. These activities included a visit to the Dacorum Careers Fair at Shendish Manor Hotel, where they explored local apprenticeship opportunities, employment contacts, and further education providers.

The NHS London Ambulance Service visited our Centre to discuss career pathways within the healthcare industry. Additionally, learners took part in workshops and visited the Ringway Grounds Maintenance Company to explore opportunities in grounds maintenance.

ABC Coaching also delivered an on-site session focused on interview techniques, equipping learners with practical skills for job applications. Off-site visits included a trip to CARDO, a home maintenance company, to raise awareness of career opportunities in the industry. Learners also visited Warner Brothers Studios, gaining a unique perspective on careers within the creative industries.

Every learner has benefited from one-to-one careers guidance sessions provided by Services for Young People, which have proven to be invaluable.



CENTRE REMINDERS

Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Site

DESC is a non-smoking and vaping site. Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited on the centre premises and during all DESC-related events or functions. We remind all our families and learners of our Centre smoking and vaping Policy to ensure the safety and well-being of our community. Over the past half term, we have seen an increase in incidents involving vaping and smoking, which is a concern for everyone involved.

Legal Context:

- The legal age for purchasing and using vaping products in the UK is 18 years.
- The maximum legal cartridge size for a vape is 2ml (equivalent to 600 puffs). Any vapes exceeding this size are illegal. Any vapes found above 600 puffs will be disposed of immediately.

For further information please see our Smoking and Vaping Policy on our website.

Damage to Site

We work really hard to ensure we keep our Centre in good working order. During the course of the term we have experienced a number of instances of significant damage to the Centre and destruction of equipment. Learners have been reminded that any damage caused will result in a request of a contribution towards repairs. Below are some photos of the level of damage we are experiencing.

Please can we ask for your support in reinforcing the need to respect our surroundings and equipment with your child.



Snapshot of the term

Pod Trips

Year 10 have enjoyed trips out for Pod Breakfasts this term! This is a great opportunity for link mentors & learners to get to know each other, build relationships and reflect on the term so far. Learners enjoyed a great breakfast offer at the Windmill Cafe, demonstrating confidence and communication skills when placing orders and speaking with staff.



PE

This half term learners have accessed 'Everyone Active' to focus on racket sports to include badminton, squash and pickleball. Learners have been working on their hand eye co-ordination, teamwork and communication skills across the three sports. They have been developing their knowledge of the rules for each sport, the scoring systems and match

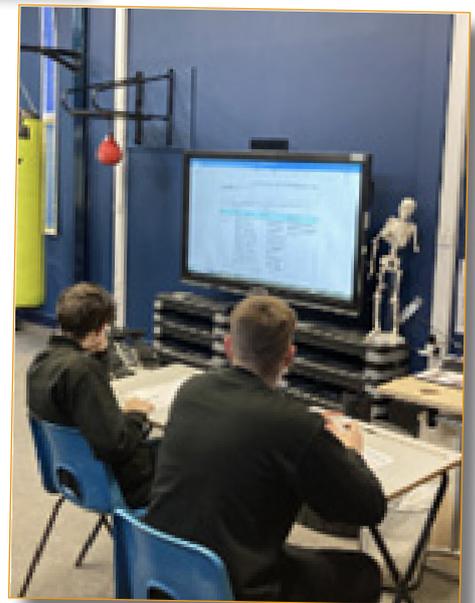
play tactics to try and beat their peers (and teachers). The levels of participation have been great and because of this the learners personal skill levels have improved dramatically. We are finishing the term with a trip to Planet Ice where learners can show us their best Torvill and Dean impressions.



NCFE Sport

This term learners have been working on the Development of Personal Fitness through Training unit which has included identifying the components of physical fitness, fitness training methods and the barriers to sports participation. Learners have participated in some fitness tests and set themselves

some personal SMART targets to work towards in the practical lessons. Personal 6-week training programmes have been created and completed within our gym here at DESC to try and achieve these targets, making adaptations where necessary.



Maths

This half term has seen some fantastic efforts at engaging in starters with enthusiasm, participating in maths activities and focusing well during the mock examinations. We covered topics

such as algebraic substitution, fractions of an amount, transformations and solving equations- it has been a busy time for maths leading up to Christmas!

English Trip to London Dungeons

The English department took six learners to the London Dungeon. We enjoyed walking along The Southbank and admiring the views across the Thames before heading to the Dungeon. Learners enjoyed the walkthrough, interactive experience, learning about London's darkest history. They listened to gripping storytelling and the theatrical performances

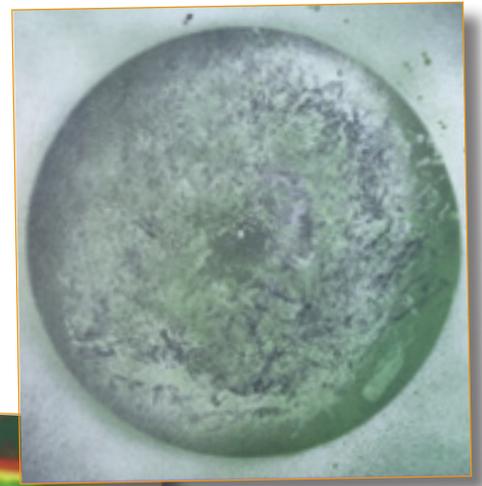
amused and scared them! They also enjoyed the ride at the end, apart from one learner who was too scared to experience it! We then took a trip to Leicester Square to enjoy the vibrant Christmas atmosphere and to get lunch before heading back to Hemel.



Art

During this half term we have been working hard together, to share our spray art skills and explore 'Space' as a theme, developing our blending and shading skills. Alongside this, we have been

researching artists who are inspired by nature and used their ideas combined with leaves, berries, and plants to create images in spray art, clay, paper, watercolours and acrylic paints.



Princes Trust

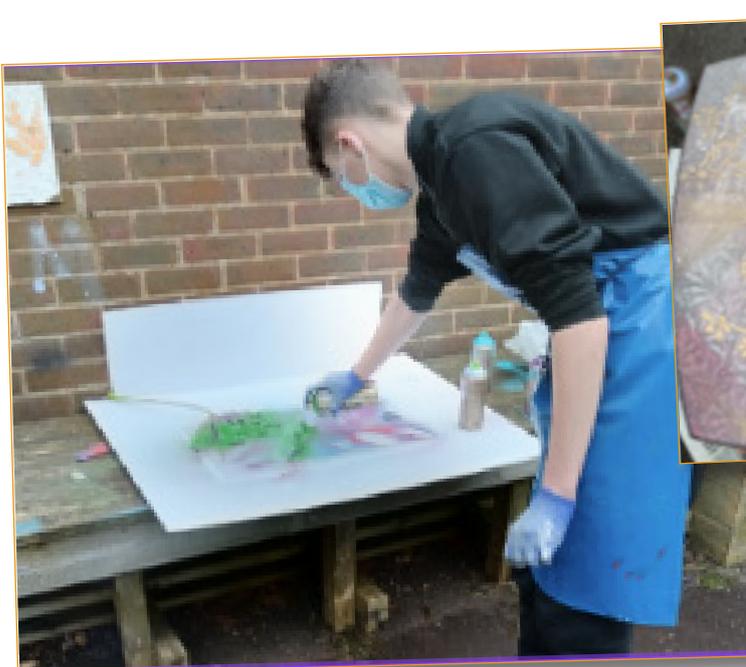
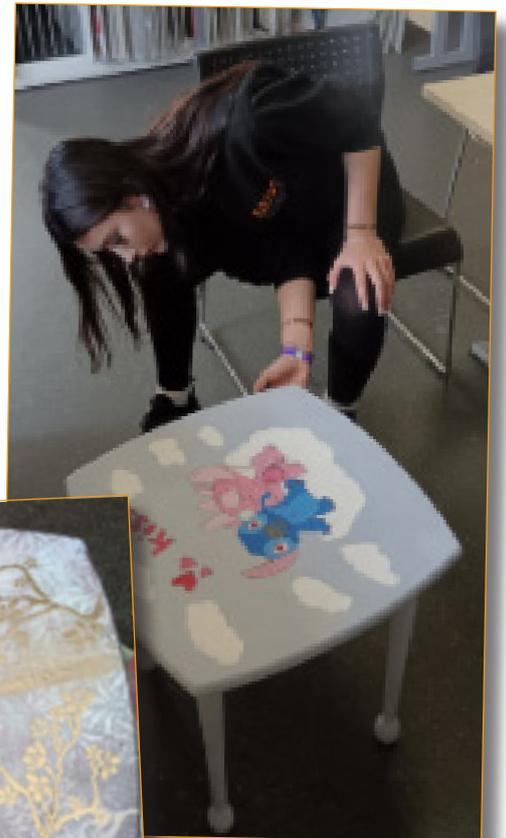
Students really enjoyed taking part in activities at Ninja Warrior. They are learning from experiences of teamwork to improve their own

performance. It was nice to see the students working together to enjoy the experience and learn new skills.

Enrichment: Upcycling Projects

Within our Enrichment sessions on a Friday, we have been developing our understanding of what being enterprising and creative means, by upcycling boxes and chairs, and sampling techniques that provide

different ways to change the surface. These will be sold off later in the year, to raise funds for the Student End of Year Celebration.



Hospitality & Tourism

Learners have enjoyed understanding the impact of tourism on the local community and investigating different roles within the sector. They have visited a number of local 'Tourist Attractions' to better understand the different types of tourism.

We have visited St Albans Cathedral, local restaurants and researched local attractions.

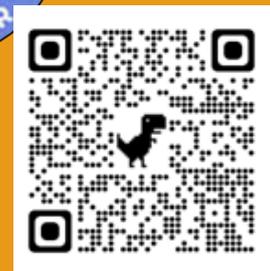


Useful Information and contacts for the holiday period

Samaritans - immediate support for any issues at all



Sandbox Project – advice and guidance for any mental health concerns



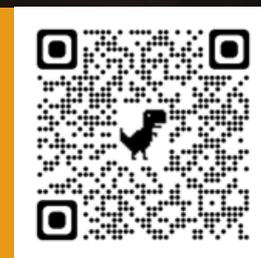
Report Remove – help to remove nude or inappropriate pictures of young people



Nude image of you online?
We can help take it



Fearless – reporting a crime or details of a crime anonymously



Talk to Frank – honest information about drugs



Brook – Sexual Health and Wellbeing experts

