

Russell House Newsletter

Summer 2024

[Wyre Forest Special School - Russell House \(wfs.worcs.sch.uk\)](http://wfs.worcs.sch.uk)



Head of Care's Message

Wow, what a fantastic end to another outstanding year at Russell House. We have had the privilege of welcoming new students, but unfortunately, we had to say a couple of sad goodbyes, wishing them good luck in their new adventures at college. Once again, we have witnessed some incredible achievements from all students throughout the year, accomplishments that neither we as a staff team nor parents and carers ever thought would be possible. As you will see within the newsletter, we have had an action-packed year where students have taken part in a wide range of activities and new experiences for all. I would personally like to thank parents and carers for your support throughout the year and, of course, the incredible Russell House staff team for making it happen. We would all like to wish you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Carla

Welcome

This term we have welcomed two new students to Russell House: Chael and Connor! They've both settled in beautifully and it feels like they've always been with us!



Birthdays

The summer term is a busy term for birthdays here in Russell House! We've celebrated Jaiden, Connor, Caitlyn, Charlie, Owen and Alex!



Disco

We now attend two monthly discos. As well as the PODS Disco in Kidderminster we attend a disco in Evesham with our friends from the Vale. The students really enjoy the disco's as it gives them all the opportunity to see their friends and create lasting relationships with them and provides a safe environment for our students to let loose and enjoy dancing to the music.



Our Way

We continue to have monthly visits from the Our Way Advocacy Group and they plan



some wonderful activities for the students, such as baking, arts and crafts and topic talks. Their most recent talk was about Life Beyond School, and they bought some of their adult service users



to talk to the students about their experiences after leaving school. The students always engage well when Our Way come to visit.

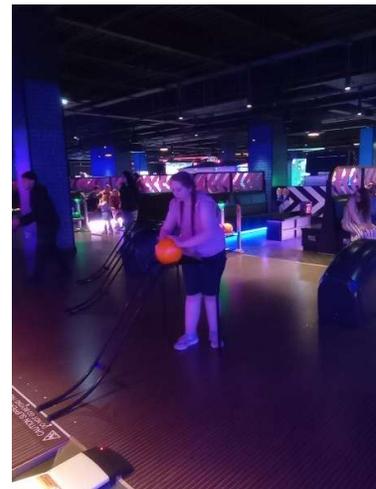
Cricket

Every Thursday Worcestershire Cricket hold a free cricket session for individuals with SEN, in the Winter it's held at the Leisure Centre and in the Summer it's held at Kidderminster Cricket Club. We aim to attend every other week to ensure our students get the opportunity to experience the game and get some exercise in a fun environment.



Bowling

Our students absolutely love a trip to either the Bowling Alley in Worcester or Merry Hill – it's great to see their competitive streaks come out! It's a great bonding opportunity for our students and a lovely way to spend some social time together.



Youth Club

We continue to go to Youth Club in Kidderminster on a Monday evening as it's a great opportunity for the students to practice their social skills and interact with new friends in a safe and supportive environment. This term they've enjoyed making sausage rolls and cakes. They also enjoy spending time on the game's consoles, air hockey table and pool table.



Theme Night

Our most recent theme night was Chinese, as this is what the majority of students requested. They enjoyed helping out in the kitchen to make a Chinese Curry and enjoyed looking at lots of Chinese artefacts – everyone had a brilliant evening!



Vale of Evesham

We're so lucky to have a great relationship with the residents and staff from Blossom House at the Vale of Evesham School. They invite us over to Evesham a couple of times a term and the latest activity we've done with them, besides the disco, is a campfire in their forest school. The students toasted marshmallows and had a great time chatting with their friends.



Wolverley Animal Centre

We recently visited Wolverley Animal Centre, based at Wolverley High School. It was a fantastic sensory experience for our students. They got to interact with animals

they wouldn't normally encounter, such as goats, sheep, meerkats, snakes, bearded dragons, stick insects, rabbits, mice and sugar gliders. It was a really enriching activity and engaged all of the students who attended – they asked some brilliant questions and listened well when spoken to by the staff there.



Activity Week

Thank you so much to all the parents for providing us with extra pocket money so we could host our first ever activity week. Freja spent so long researching and planning all the activities to ensure our students had a fantastic fun filled week as a reward for how amazing they've all been throughout the year! We're already looking forward to next year's activities! Each student was given the opportunity to go to at least two of the activities that had been planned and you'll see from the pictures what a fantastic time everyone had! Including the staff!

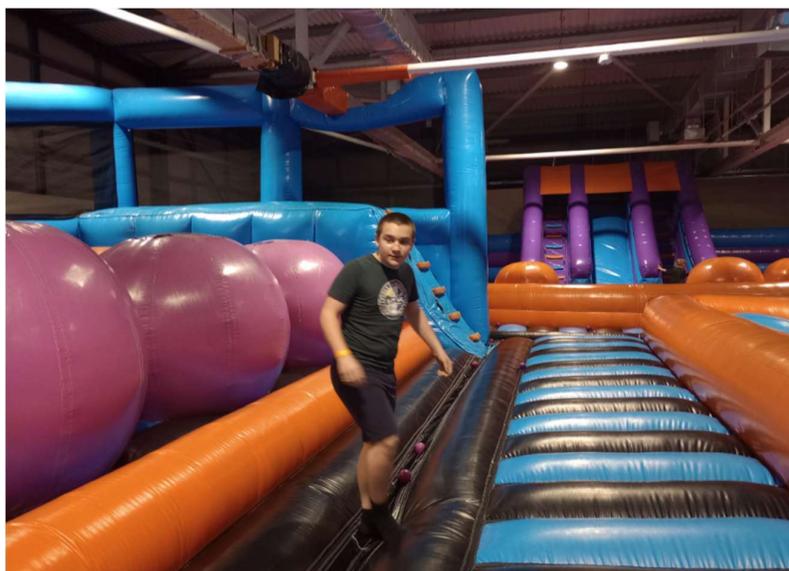
Monday - Habberley Trail



Tuesday - Sealife Centre



Wednesday - Inflate Nation



Thursday - Think Tank



Garden Party

Thank you to everyone who came to the garden party this year, it was lovely to see so many of you there, and I'm sure you'll all agree that it was a lovely afternoon filled with fun and laughter!



Goodbye Lily

We said goodbye to Lily earlier in the year and now we've reached the end of the school year she has left WFS too. We wish her all the luck in her future.



Goodbye Lincoln

This year we're saying a sad goodbye to Lincoln, who is off to Telford College in September. He's looking forward to his new adventure, but he'll definitely be missed by everyone here in Russell House. He went out with a bang and enjoyed one last outing to Full Throttle Go Karting with some of his friends!



See You in September

Thank you to the parents who have been kind enough to send in gifts for the staff here, it's very much appreciated!

We spent the last two evenings enjoying time in our brand-new swimming pool!



We hope you all have a wonderful
summer!