Russell House Newsletter Autumn 2024

Wyre Forest Special School - Russell House (wfs.worcs.sch.uk)

Head of Care's Message

Wow, what an action-packed and fun-filled term it has been at Russell House!

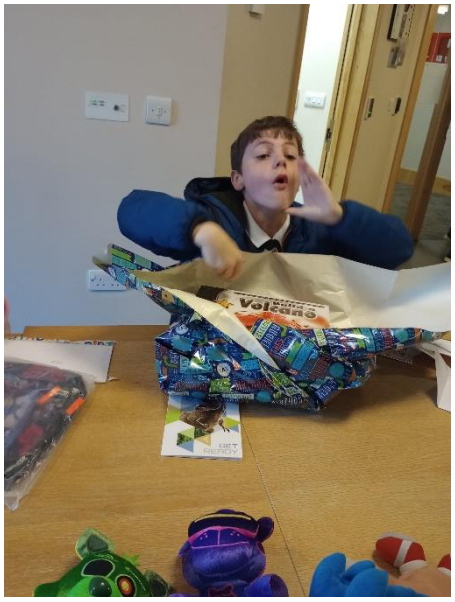
The students have had the opportunity to enjoy many new and exciting experiences, making this term extremely memorable. We've witnessed remarkable progress and achievements from all our students, showcasing their hard work and dedication.

As the term ends, we would like to thank and send best wishes to Lesley Evans, who is retiring after years of incredible contributions at WSF and Russell House.

Lastly, we've wrapped up the term with a magical and festive run-up to Christmas, bringing joy and cheer to everyone.

Birthdays

The Autumn term is a busy term for birthdays here in Russell House! We've celebrated Gerry, Olivia, Michael and Kayde. We also wish Rio a very happy birthday which he'll celebrate in the Christmas Holidays!



Park Trips

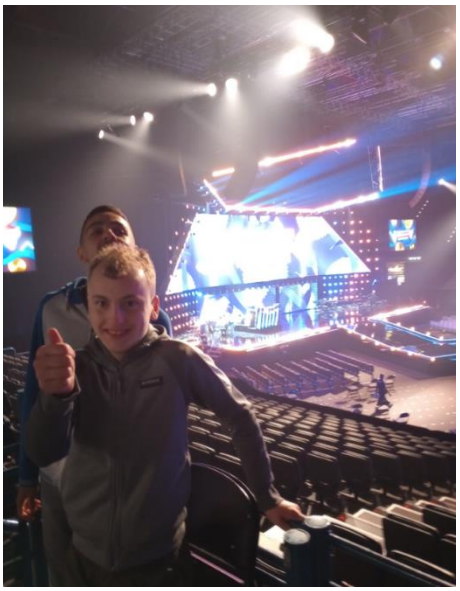
The students love a trip to the park and we're lucky to have so many to choose from around the area. The students enjoy going to White Wickets, Springfield Park and Brinton Park to name just a few! It's a great way for everyone to get some exercise and have fun with their friends.

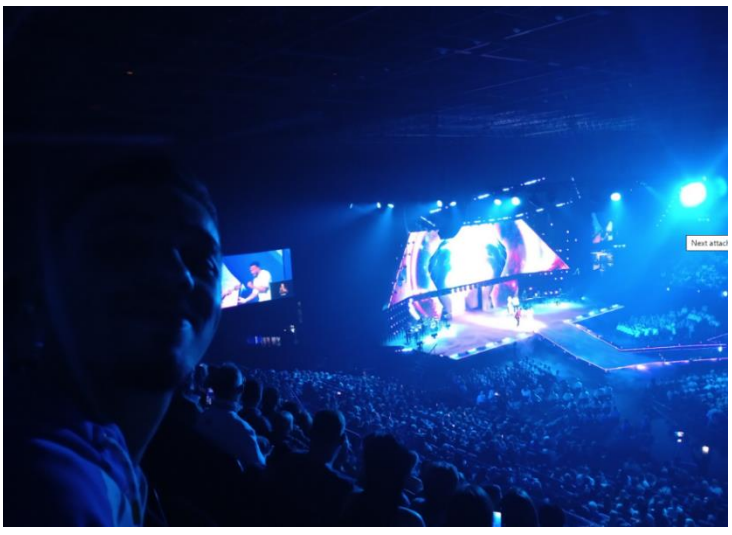
Soft Play

We're very lucky to have such an amazing soft play facility in school, which we do like to take advantage of! The students love going there to relax and use their imagination to come up with some great games to play with the equipment.

Paralympic Homecoming Ceremony

Way back at the beginning of term, Abby's Mum donated four tickets to Russell House so students and staff could attend the Paralympic Homecoming Ceremony at the Utilita Arena in Birmingham! Connor and Rio went with Abby and Jemma, and they all had an amazing time! This event was filmed and televised as well, so you may have caught a glimpse of them high up in the stands. They got to see artists including Craig David, Sugababes and Jonas Blue.

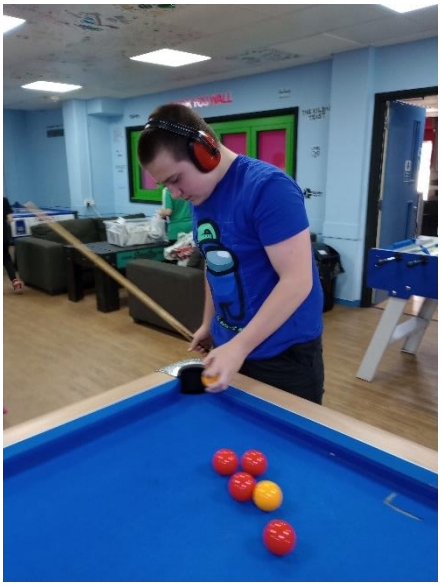




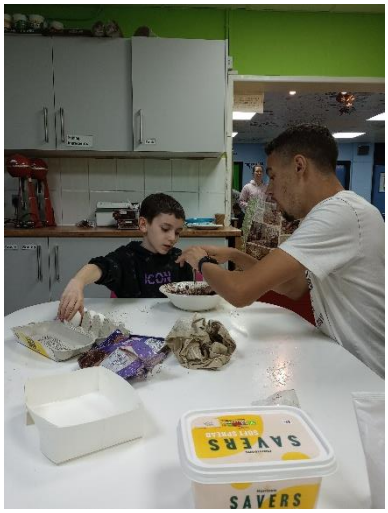
Disco

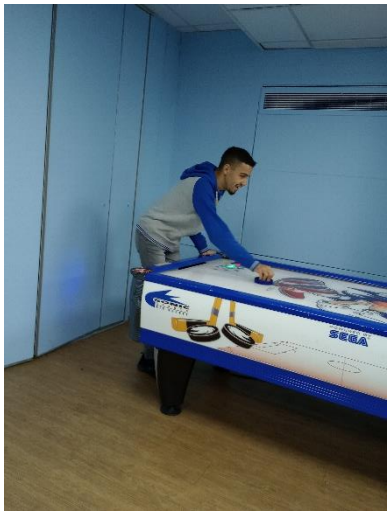
We now attend two monthly discos. As well as the PODS Disco in Kidderminster we attend a disco in Evesham with our friends from the Vale. The students really enjoy the disco's as it gives them all the opportunity to see their friends and create lasting relationships with them and provides a safe environment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

Youth Club



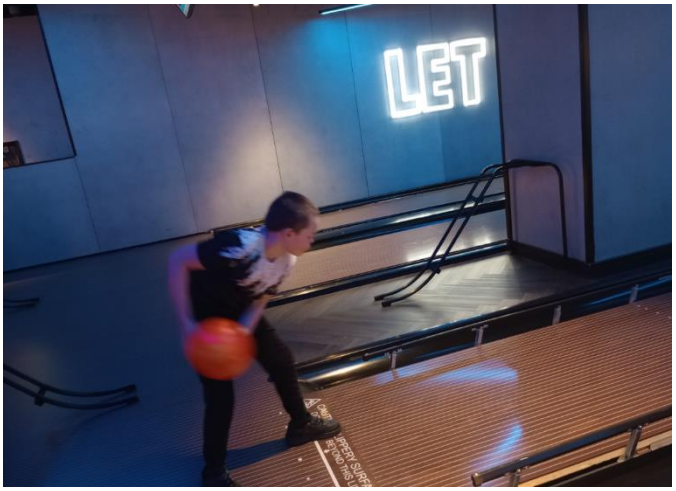
We continue to go to Youth Club in Kidderminster on a Monday evening as it's a great opportunity for the students to practice their social
skills and interact with new friends in a safe and supportive environment. This term they've enjoyed making sausage rolls and cakes. They also enjoy spending time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

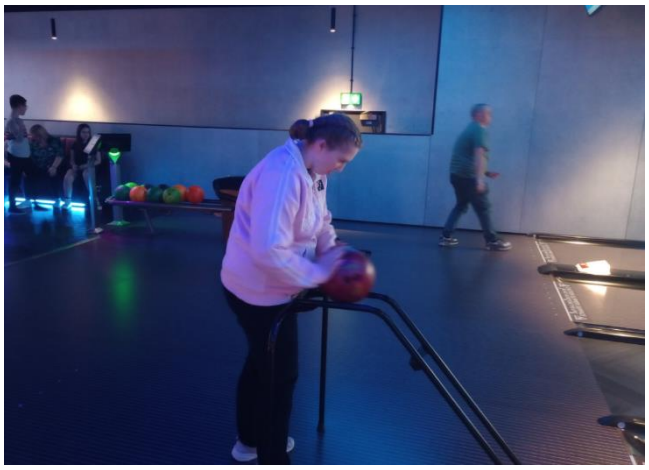


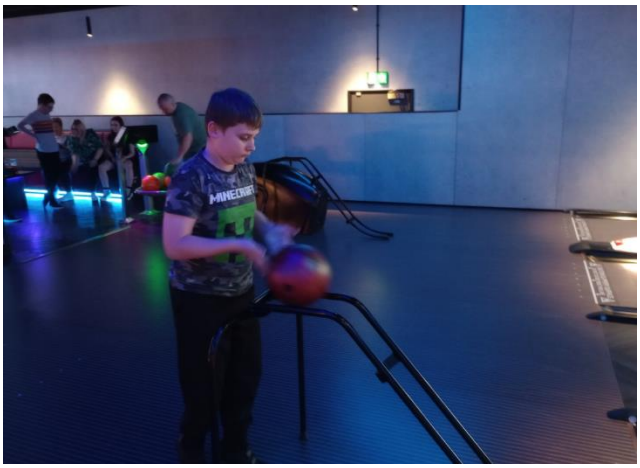


Bowling

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. We sometimes meet Our Friends at the Vale and go bowling with them too! They love seeing their friends from Blossom House.







Pizza Hut

Olivia asked to go to Pizza Hut for her birthday, she chose 6 friends and 3 staff to go with her for her last birthday in Russell House. Everyone had a really lovely time and asked if we can go back again.

Fizz Pop Science

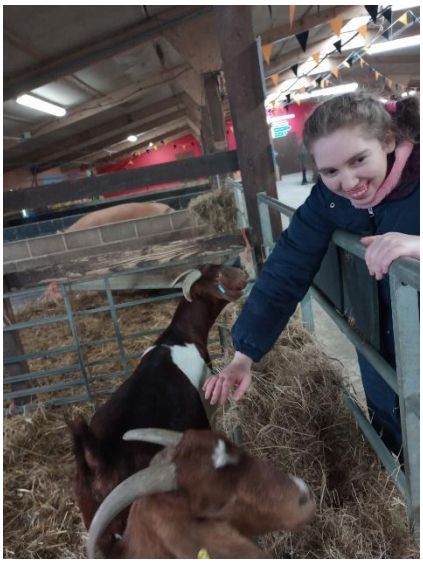
We've had another fantastic visit from the team at Fizz Pop Science this term. This activity focus was called 'Taste Buddies,' and involved taste testing and making your own sherbet. The students started off having some of their senses taken away and then tasting some squash and seeing who could guess correctly. Connor was the only student not to have any senses taken away and he was the only one who guessed the flavour correctly! They then worked in pairs to taste starburst and guess the flavours. They then ended the session by making their sherbet, it was a fantastic, engaging activity and all of the students involved had a great time.

Pumpkin Picking

A group of students went to Bell's Farm Shop to go pumpkin picking, they all had a lovely time wandering around the grounds and trying to find the best pumpkins! Activities like this are a great way for our students to access the community in a fun and meaningful way.

Attwell Farm Park

A few students went on a trip to Atwell Farm Park, it was a fun and sensory activity. The students were free to walk around at their own pace to really take in the sights and sounds of the farm; as well as getting up close and personal with all the amazing animals that they have there!



Halloween Party

The Halloween Party this year was a great hit and thank you to parents for sending in some great costumes for your children to wear! Everyone looked fantastic! The students enjoyed playing Halloween themed games and arts & crafts. We did a Russell House style trick or treat which involved staff hiding sweets in students' bedrooms and they had to go and look for them!

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. The students absolutely love joining in with the activities that the team provide.

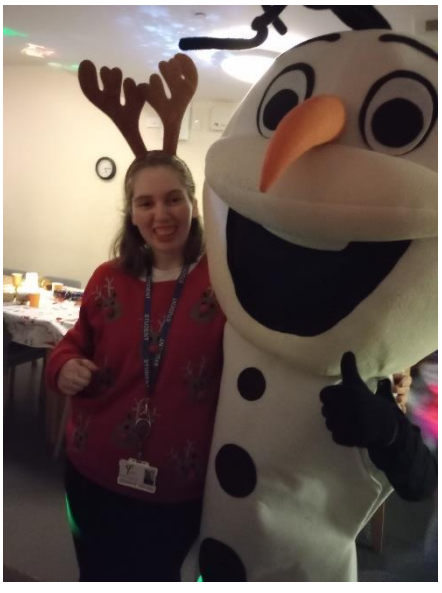
Cinema with the Vale

Our friends at the Vale invited us to go and see Otto at their local cinema. The students had a great time as they don't go to the cinema often here at Russell House, so it made a lovely change for them all! This trip out was also paired with dinner at McDonald's.

Russell House Christmas Extravaganza

Throughout the month of December and during the lead up to the Christmas Holidays our students have engaged in a variety of Christmas activities including: Christmas tree decorating, a walk and Hartlebury Common and then a look around Cooks Garden Centre, Christmas karaoke, making Christmas cards, Christmas baking with Mrs Guy, a drive to look for Christmas lights, a visit to Sycamore Centre to see Santa, a Christmas light walk around St Peter's Garden Centre, Christmas movie night, Christmas pamper night, Christmas party, a visit to the Pantomime, breakfast with Santa and of course the return of the naughty elves.

Ha Ha!!!! You can't get in!!!!



Thank you to all the parents who have sent in gifts for staff and students!

Merry Christmas

and Happy New Year

We look forward to welcoming you all back on 6th January