



Wessex Lodge School

Newsletter
21/12/2017

Welcome to Winter!

As the weather turns more and more wintry, all at Triskele care farm have begun preparations for the colder temperatures by putting the animals under cover - safe, and protected from the inclement weather. Gandalf (the turkey) especially, will now be resting, safe and secure, as December 25th fast approaches!

Lawn mowing has been completed for the season but we look forward to the new growing season when Courtney, Shannon, Leo and Aisha, will be able to apply their lawn mowing skills and complete ground preparation tasks requiring the tractor. Congratulations to you four for passing your 'Tractor driving license Test' and thanks to the Farm staff for their careful and thorough driving instruction.

We have all been delighted to get to know Lukasz and have all developed a new appreciation for accents. Lukasz has, amongst many other things, spent time swimming in the Leisure Centre in Frome: It has been fantastic to see Liam and Courtney show off their water skills to Teresa, with frequent trips to the Pool as part of their induction into life at Wessex Lodge Middle School- not to mention the pancake making!

We are very lucky to have so many community facilities available to us. This includes ice skating in close proximity and make-up outlets, where we have been able to compare the range and prices of products available. Southwick Country Park is also local - where Shannon has been out strolling in the fresh air.

The team... It has been exciting to have 2 new dynamic members of staff join the team at Wessex Lodge School this term: Josh and Sophia. Josh has brought a whole new level of fitness to Wessex as he has been visiting Pure Fitness gym in Radstock - almost daily with Leo and Scott. They have been working out enthusiastically. Josh has also recently been sharing chess skills with the students. Nisha will soon be out-manoeuvring Josh on the chess board which Scott has already achieved 6:1 and counting!

Sophia has spent many happy hours at the farm already. She has been using every excuse (we noticed!) to spend time with the Shetlands, Bertie and Carmella, in particular- her favourites due to their cuteness.

Shannon has been spending time with Sophia and has also come into



the School where she has rustled up a delectable cake with marshmallows and visited the 'in school salon' to revamp her hair to a gorgeous vibrant pink.

As Courtney has been busy cleaning and cuddling the rabbits, Lola and Spike, Leo has been working on his property empire with Dave in Monopoly!

Leo's landscaping skills have flourished too, where he has been using a range of tools including a fence stretcher and hole auger: The fences look great with secure

nailing and an impressive professional quality finish. Good job Leo!



While some students like Zoe and Shannon have been busy helping with brushes and paint in bedrooms, others have been controlling brushes, in art sessions, to create texture and blend tones. 'Keeping an eye on things' Aisha has been applying paint to show form which has resulted in a wonderful life like eye. Watch out for when the subtle blending of tertiary colours is transferred to real eyelids!

Hair cutting, hair curling, straightening and deep conditioning treatments, make-overs and beautification techniques have been prevalent all this term. Shannon Kennedy has cut hair for the first time, Shannon gave Louise a make-over, our block heads have been



plaited, braided, twisted and crimped.

Cooking aromas have been wafting tantalisingly in the air as Courtney, Aisha and Kayleigh have all completed their BTEC Level 1 Home cooking skills assessments with Nikita this month. Results are pending. In the meantime, we have enjoyed rustic, healthy, homemade chicken and vegetable soup, some fantastic, flavoursome, fulfilling fajitas and some glorious, gooey fudge cake. Weight reducing diets ordered for the staff for new year! More assessments are predicted for next Year as the girls move onto Level 2 and even more delicious food - if that is possible.

Much of our Math's and English work is cross curricular and tone, scales and analysing music falls into this sphere. Musical achievements this term have included keyboard playing where Courtney, Tianna, Kayleigh and Nisha have learned more songs and riffs, some basic chords, and two handed playing techniques. Their comprehension of notes and their timing has also improved.





Student Council News!

Thank you all for taking part in the Wessex Lodge student questionnaire. Hair and Beauty sessions and not having to wear school uniform were what you currently like best about Wessex Lodge School.

The most popular request was to have more teachers and we can announce that Sarah and Lucy will join the Education team in January. Sarah will be teaching Science amongst other things and Lucy joins us as a Learning Support Assistant in the Middle

School. Other things you would like to change were: Phone rules, smoking hut, less work, more going out, more break times, more games, shorter lessons, longer lunch, more computer opportunities and more board games. These issues will be discussed in more detail in Student Council meetings. Student Council will meet each half term, led by Sophia and the student body will be represented by three students. The three students will be selected from applicants from each of the below: Outreach (Students who are tutored at home), Middle School and Wessex Lodge School.

English and Mathematics may have been voted, by some students, as the least popular activities at Wessex Lodge School but we have made good progress nevertheless. We know the importance of Literacy and Numeracy cannot be under rated, as qualifications in these

two subjects show standards achieved which enhance life chances and employability. It is therefore with anticipation that we await Aisha's Functional Skills Level 1 English result, which she sat in November. Congratulations on sitting this formal examination Aisha. Additionally, congratulations to Nisha for completing her Entry Level Certificate Modules in Mathematics as she moves onto the Functional Skills Level 1 programme. We have other students busy completing their Entry Level Modules and preparing for Functional Skills accreditation in Mathematics and English, hopefully we can add their names to this expanding list in the next Newsletter.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact Sophia Raddad our Student Council Coordinator:

sophiar@enhancedchildrensservices.co.uk

Partnership with external agencies.

Marina, who is a young person's sexual health nurse from SWISH, visited Wessex Lodge School on 2nd November.

Marina advised us on the different types of contraception which are available.

Some of the young people practiced applying condoms correctly and safely during the afternoon lesson.

The girls asked great questions and learnt a lot from this visit.

On Marina's next visit in the new year we will be looking at the effect of alcohol and how it can affect our decisions in regards to sexual health.

Mike from Motiv8 also visited us recently (23rd November) and updated us on the drugs that were currently being made ready available to young people in Somerset and Wiltshire. Mike will be joining us again in the New Year to look more closely at specific drugs and the harm they can cause to our bodies and mental health.

We have been very fortunate to have had enough funds donated to us to purchase a good 'Lighting System Keyboard' to enable the student's music work to improve still further. This is a very nice sounding and a good to play keyboard, with keys that light up to train you how to play certain traditional songs. It was a donation from a Frome based night market that was held at The Silk Mill before Christmas with 10% of their profit given to us. This was organised locally by a promotion and funding setup called 'Boom' and we would like to thank them all immensely and let them know that the donation has gone to good use and will continue to be enjoyed by the young people, at Wessex Lodge School, well into the future. Thank you for your generosity.



Aisha has recorded her voice to two backing tracks using the Apple Mac and we have recently discovered she has a good jazzy sounding vocal!



Middle School Update:

We warmly welcome Courtney, Liam and Daniel full time in January 2018. Liam and Courtney have enjoyed their induction period with us already and Daniel will be with us as we launch our new topic 'Buildings and Shelters', in the new year. This will allow us to make the most of our Learning at Triskele Care Farm as we look forward to the nest building season and the new offspring sure to arrive as the weather warms up in the Spring.



More exciting news!

There will be a new school website in March 2018 where you will be able access the Newsletter and more....

Finally, the Head teacher and staff wish everyone a wonderful holiday. Whether you stay at home or venture further afield (Neill!) we hope you find time to rest a little, reflect upon all the achievements of the past year and come back in 2018 energised and enthusiastic for new challenges.

It has been an incredible 2017 and we anticipate 2018 being even more so.



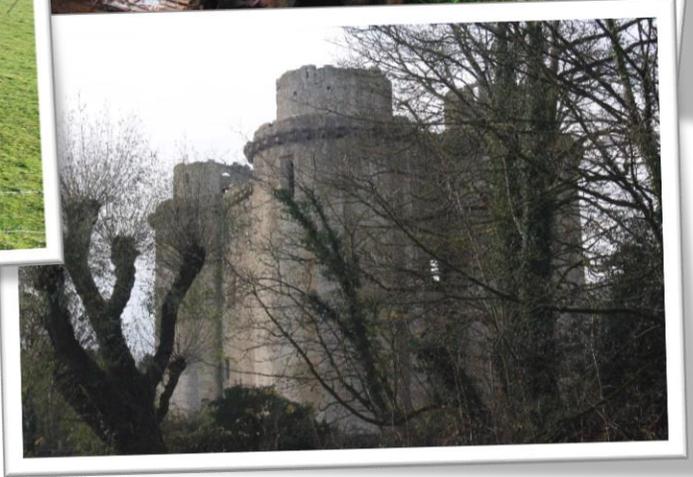
The best of the Season's Greetings from all of us at Wessex Lodge School.

We are proud of all the many achievements of our students this Autumn Term. Across the curriculum we have been delighted to share their experiences, laughter and enthusiasm. Looking forward to 2018. Bring it on!!!



Photography with Dan...

Photography sessions have had us out and about in the community including Aisha and Nisha enjoying a trip to Shearwater and Nigel joining the girls at Heaven's gate. Kayleigh and Aisha have been taking Winter Wonderland photographs with the Canon DSLR to make a portfolio...



A unique approach to caring and learning

We provide high quality, holistic care and learning opportunities to improve the lives and outcomes for children and young people through a proven range of practitioner-led services.

Residential | **Fostering** | **Education & Learning**
Care Farming Centres | **Trauma Recovery Services**

Residential

Wessex College is proud to provide holistic residential services for young people aged between 10-19. Offering a range of placements types, our highly-qualified and experienced team share a vision and a passion to achieve excellent outcomes for all the young people in our care.



I am happy living at Wessex. I want to live here for as long as possible, as it is the most settled I have ever been in a placement.



Young person, 17

Trauma Recovery Services

We provide unrivalled support to our carers and staff as well as robust Clinical services to deliver the very best trauma recovery care for children, helping build better futures.



Fostering

Our Enhanced Foster Care service takes fostering to another level by providing carers with the support they need and young people with the carers they deserve. We work across the South and South West.



Education and learning

Our education services provide flexible high quality education to young people who may have complex learning needs. Our creative and bespoke curriculum coupled with tailored pastoral care has been proven to deliver learning success.



Care Farming Centres

We lead the way in nature-based intervention for children and young people. Our two Care Farms in Wiltshire and Devon make a valuable difference in both children's trauma recovery and enhancing learning experiences.



How we help children and young people

We have created a diverse range of care services for children and young people who face daily challenges. Offering multiple options of care, those with complex trauma experiences are supported by practitioners.

- Providing residential care in family homes to help create the positive, stable environments and relationships that young people need.
- Offering enhanced foster care across the South and South West of England.
- Delivering creative and bespoke curriculum to children with complex learning needs in classrooms, Care Farms and outdoor education programmes.
- Providing nature-based intervention and learning on Care Farms to help with children's trauma recovery.
- Using Eco-therapy, either on day placements or stays, to aid trauma recovery for abused or neglected children.

These services have been shaped by a shared passion for what children, young people and their families have a right to receive, regardless of their background.



Thank you for all you have done for my daughter.



Mother

To find out more about our variety of care services for children and young people, please get in touch.

Call us on: 01985 878909
Email: theoffice@enhancedchildrensservices.co.uk