

YOUTH WORK

New Beginnings

At the end of August, we said goodbye to our youth premises - Juicy Blitz.

The decision not to renew our lease came for a number of reasons but mainly so that we could maximise our new delivery model and put as much as possible into directly working with young people. Our sessions will now be based from a variety of locations across the community.



Detached Youth Work

You may have come across our youth work team out and about in Lawrence Weston recently. This is part of our new detached and street based youth work programme. We are partnering with Learning Partnership West and funded through Barnardos, See, Hear and Respond Programme to engage with young people out and about in the community. The aim is to support young people to stay safe whilst out and identify any young people that might need some extra support from our team.

Mentoring & 1:1 Support

Our academy based mentoring programmes are continuing, working with students that may benefit from some extra 1:1 support. We are at Brightstowe on a Monday and Wednesday and Bank Leaze on a Friday. Our crisis support and Educational Reintegration mentoring is also continuing through to March as part of the See, Hear and Respond Programme.



COMMUNITY



Change Makers

Sadie Fox, our youth and community engagement worker is working with students and parents, providing opportunities to develop projects which make a positive change. Our first Community Change Maker projects have started with Year 4 at Long Cross and Year 6 at Bank Leaze planting bulbs around the academy sites. Whilst doing so, they have been learning about the environment and why flowers and having a clean and tidy community can make a positive impact.

Our next community project is a buddy project with Blaise Weston Court and Kingsmead Lodge where students will have weekly video calls with residents, sharing work, reading stories and having conversations. The winter months can be a really lonely time especially during the current pandemic and we want to ensure we are still reaching out and making connection with others.

Enterprise Design Project

Throughout October and November we ran an enterprise design project through our community shop. Winners have been selected and will be announced on our social media pages in December. The winning designs will be used to create a range of products which will go on sale next year. Watch this space!



FAMILY SUPPORT



1:1 Support

Aisling is continuing to provide 1:1 support to parents in the local community. We have seen a huge increase in demand for this support, with over 40 referrals in the last month.

With this in mind, we have secured funding to train Sadie Fox, our youth and community worker in advice and support systems. Sadie will join Aisling in providing family support from January.

In the meantime, Aisling will continue to provide support via the phone and doorstep visits. Key areas of support at the moment are finances, benefits, emotional support and access to food and gas/electric.

Christmas Food Parcels

Throughout December we will be providing weekly food parcels to our most vulnerable families. The parcels are by referral only as we have a limited number available each week.

