

MARK COSTELLO

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Dear parents and carers,

This morning, while taking my Newfoundland for an early morning walk, we stumbled upon an unexpected sight. A beautiful fox sat peacefully in the middle of the skatepark, watching the world go by. It was a reminder that even in the midst of our daily routine there is always something new and exciting to discover. This unexpected encounter has brought a sense of wonder to my day, as I hope it can for you.

Thankfully the unpredictable weather last week has turned into glorious sun this week and perfect for our newly introduced walking club! This club was formed after feedback from our student leadership team about how much they enjoyed our sponsored walk for World Down Syndrome Day and was led by our Head of Education, Nicola Gibbs.

You will notice I have added a new section to the weekly newsletter entitled 'tour around the houses'. In this section we aim to show you a brief update from the houses each week highlighting a trip or activity they have done. If your young person is anything like my daughter, when I ask how her day has been or what she has been up to at college I get a muffled 'not much', so hopefully this gives you a glimpse into daily life here at Foxes. I hope in time we can get an update from every house, every week, however this was a last-minute addition to the newsletter following feedback so apologies if this week your house isn't featured.



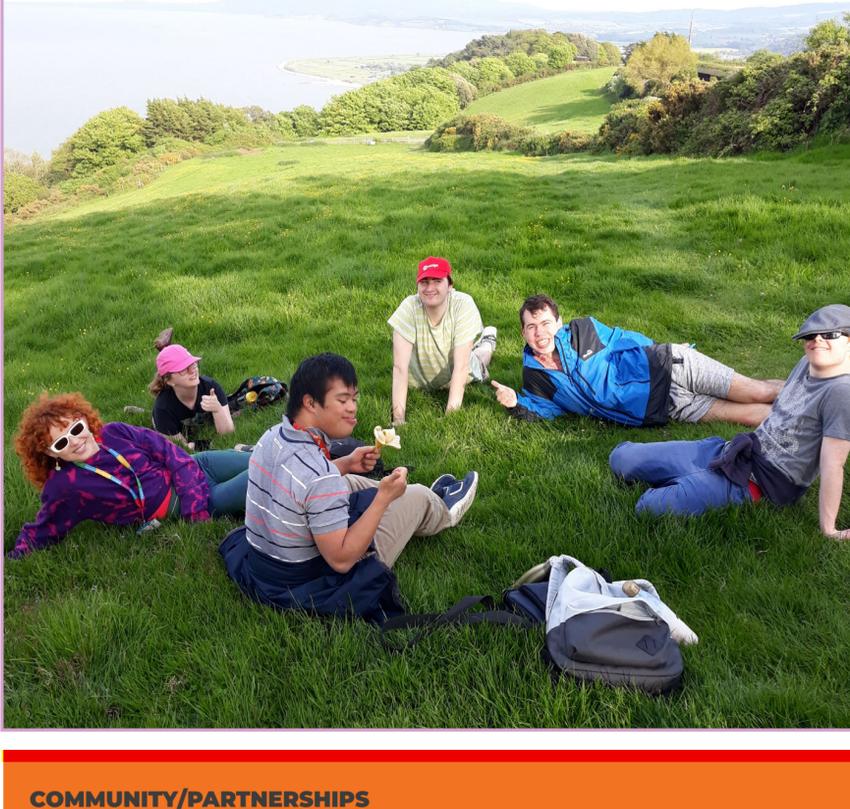
**AN UPDATE FROM EDUCATION**

First and second year students have been working hard with their English Speaking Board exam practice. Their confidence is growing each week and they have all been really supportive to one another. It has been a great benefit to have additional staff from across Foxes joining these presentations to observe and to ask questions. We have all been really impressed with the engagement and teamwork and it is clear that students are making great progress with their communication.

Some of our third years have also been reinforcing their skills with regards to time keeping and how these skills will help them in their future lives. This has also been embedded within their ongoing travel training. Another focus for third years has been discussion around aspirations for future living arrangements and these students have been sharing ideas and researching costs for furnishing a house.

**NOTABLE ACTIVITIES**

Following the success of World Down Syndrome Day sponsored walk we were delighted to hear that many students wanted to get out and see even more of our surrounding area. Being in the heart of Exmoor there are many wonderful walks and trails and our students and staff are looking forward to discovering more.



**COMMUNITY/PARTNERSHIPS**

We are pleased to announce that this year we will be opening Foxes Hotel for the first time in the summer holidays to give previous years graduates the opportunity to return to Foxes and gain some valuable work experience and a chance to refresh their skills. We hope this trial will be successful and is something we will offer in future years.



**A TOUR AROUND THE HOUSES**



**FOXES TRADING POST**

This week, Foxes Trading Post students celebrated two student birthdays and also enjoyed joining in the local Hobby Horse festivities!



**FOXES LOFT**

Foxes Loft planned and budgeted for a meal out to celebrate Somerset Day. On Saturday the whole group (minus two students due to WEX placements) went to Torre Cider Farm.

Everyone had fun in the sun, recapping sun safety, and enjoyed a meal together.



**FOXES LODGE & BURROW**

The students at Foxes Lodge and Burrow have had a lovely week enjoying the sunny weather that we've recently had in Minehead. They planned to go on a trip to Dunster Castle by bus where they enjoyed a walk around the gardens and the castle and had a picnic. Some of our students have taken part in our new walking club that has started this week. The weather and the views have been fantastic, and the students had a lot of fun.



**FOXES EARTH**

We had students Andrew, Leo, Charley & Freya attend their Wilton Work Experience, they put their Front Of House & Food Preparation skills into practice with cooking and serving members of the Wilton Community, they all worked so hard! Freya said 'I think Wilton is great! I like working in different places and gaining experience'.

Freya also achieved this week's 'Star Of The Week' certificate as she has helped make packed lunches for her peers, had 2 amazing hotel sessions with positive feedback & baked all her peers cupcakes, truly the star of this week!

**FOXES HOLLOW**

The students from the Hollow have been busy helping to keep Minehead clean and tidy by picking up litter along the seafront and in Blenheim Gardens as part of their Duke of Edinburgh community volunteering activity!

They do this every week, and it continues to be a fantastic opportunity for the students to get out in the fresh air with their friends as well as doing something for the local community.



**FOXES ROOST**

This week students at Foxes Roost have practiced their travel training by catching the bus to Dunster to enjoy a lunch at a local café and have a walk around the village.

Students also celebrated Elissa's birthday and made a cake and went for a walk down the seafront where they enjoyed some Fish and Chips!



**FOXES HIVE WILL BE JOINING US ON THE TOUR THROUGH THE HOUSES NEXT WEEK.**

Thank you for reading!