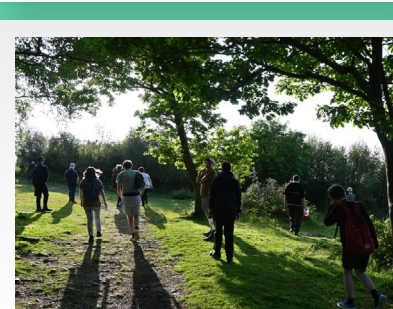
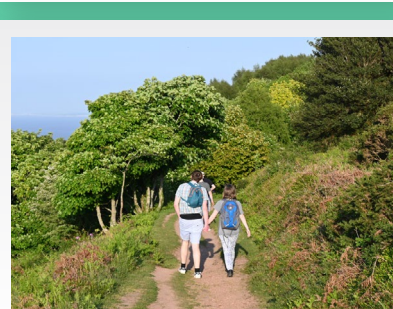
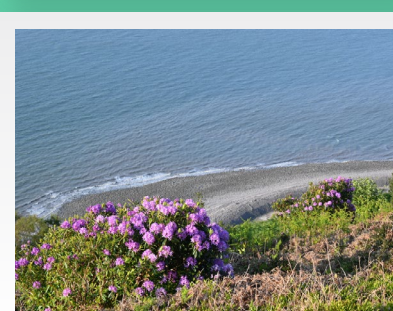
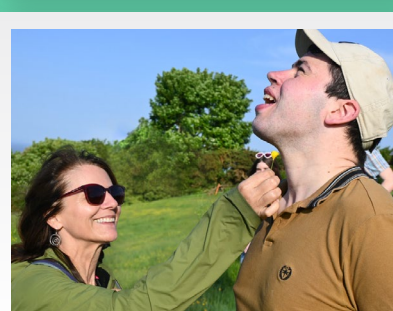
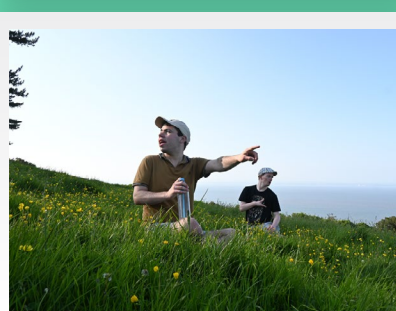
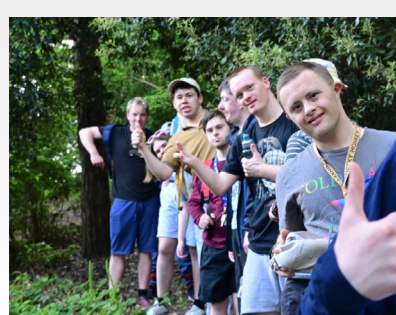


NICOLA GIBBS

**MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF EDUCATION***Dear parents and carers*

Well, we appear to have bypassed spring and accelerated into summer here in Minehead. The sun is out (and is apparently here to stay a while longer) and this has given us all a much needed boost of energy and joy.

My golden moment of the week personally has been our new walking club and seeing students (and staff) enjoy a summer evening walk over North Hill, running through the buttercups and with one student, arms outstretched declaring passionately 'I LOVE this!' Please see the short update on this and enjoy the beautiful photos.



This week there have been many golden moments on an almost daily basis, with fantastic feedback and reports from the hotel, houses and of course in the classrooms. Like the aforementioned glorious weather, our students continue to shine in all areas. Please do read the travel training reports to see just a couple of examples of success. A big thank you to the staff who have dedicated their energies into this initiative and well done to our lovely students for their courage and determination.

I'm writing this from HOST, one of our work experience placements, where I have had the privilege of seeing a couple of our third year students working to professional standards and embracing their growing independence. We are very proud of the range of successful work experience placements which have been established over the years. Thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to find and maintain these placements and especially to Anna, Alex and Kerry whose expertise and enthusiasm has enabled this to be such a successful and valuable aspect of our offer here at Foxes.

Finally, a huge well done to our hotel staff and the students who work so hard to maintain high standards. I would like to finish by including this latest review on TripAdvisor - which I think speaks for itself.

Have a wonderful weekend.

**TRIPADVISOR**

We had been recommended Foxes by relatives in Wolverhampton - if you're in Minehead you must try Foxes! Well, they were so right! From the time we arrived at reception the welcome was warm and professional. William, one of the second year students, showed us to the bar area and took our pre-dinner drinks order. Which he then delivered to the table, telling us the importance of delivering the drinks to ladies first.

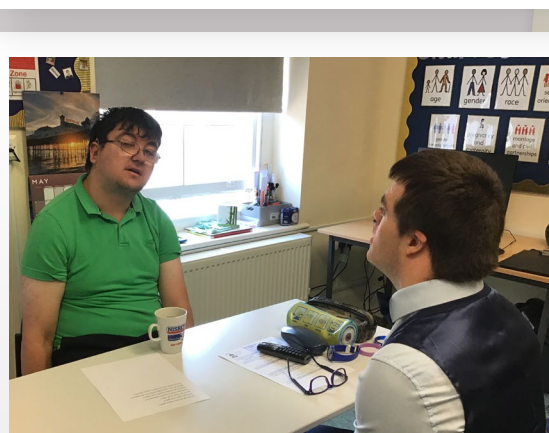
Holly was our waitress, also a second year student, she showed us to our table and took our order. Very professional. The food came and was superbly plated up and it was indeed delicious. Perfectly cooked.

Always in the background were the absolutely fabulous staff, encouraging and supporting the students with warm words and delightful smiles.

I can't speak too highly of the restaurant and the fantastic job being done to provide the students with routes to independent living and future jobs in hotel and hospitality. Keep up the great work and we will be back next time we're down your way!

**AN UPDATE FROM EDUCATION**

This week Foxes Hollow students have been working hard on their ESB exams in preparation for their exam next week. We are delighted to share this example of some excellent teamwork with you, where the students demonstrated fantastic leadership skills by interviewing one another. This was a great activity for the students to take part in and they each showed great confidence when talking about their skills and experiences!



Some of the third years have been working on their yearbook comments and thinking about their achievements during their three years at Foxes. The comments have been really lovely, with lots of talk about being independent, learning about working and travelling on the bus. One comment from Charlie H has really stuck with me; his proudest achievement is learning to tie his shoelaces and now he will be able to look smart when he goes to work.

At the hotel, Viv, Katelyn and George volunteered to come and assist first years in FOH over the weekend running a dinner party of 18 people and they were fantastic. They each got a star towards their FOH team leader badge for their teamwork skills and commitment to their work.

Team leaders so far:  
FOH: James R, Darryll, Lexie  
FP: Katelyn



Trading Post students practised their travel training this week. Shelby, Kinvara, George and Ashley went to Watchet via bus and then Doniford Farm via taxi which had been booked the week before. Jake, Zoe, Michael and Rebekah went to Dunster Castle on the bus and had a picnic afterwards!



GOLDEN MOMENT

Our Golden Moment this week is about third year student, Rebecca.

One of Rebecca's goals for her final year is to be able to travel home to Bristol using public transport independently. Last week Rebecca booked travel assistance over the phone with very little support for her train journey to Bristol on Monday so she could travel as independently as possible.

In her Moving On session Rebecca caught the bus independently to Taunton train station, she then went into the train station, communicated that she had booked travel assistance and with the support of the travel assistance navigated her way around the train station and got onto the train and into her seat - anyone who knows Rebecca knows that stepping on and off the train to the platform is something that does not come easy, she communicated this when booking the travel assistance and was able to get on and off the train safely with their help. Rebecca completed all of this again on the way back to Minehead with no support from Foxes at all!

Rebecca and her parents are now going to plan a weekend of home leave where Rebecca will travel home independently using the bus and train and be met by her parents in Bristol, she will then travel back to Minehead independently also!

We are so proud of Rebecca for all her hard work. A huge achievement!



A TOUR AROUND THE HOUSES

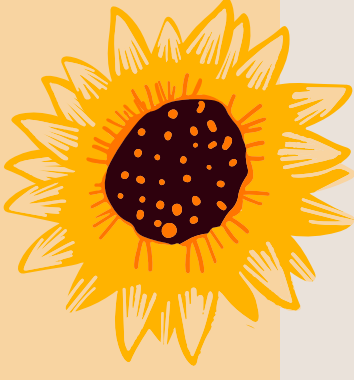


FOXES TRADING POST

Students enjoyed a nice walk to the West Somerset Garden Centre, to buy some sunflower seeds.

The students have planted one each and we are going to see whose can grow the biggest!

All the students very much enjoyed this activity in the sunshine.



FOXES HOLLOW

The students at Foxes Hollow decided they wanted to do their bit in helping to keep the garden tidy and useable and have worked incredibly hard on this over the last few weeks.

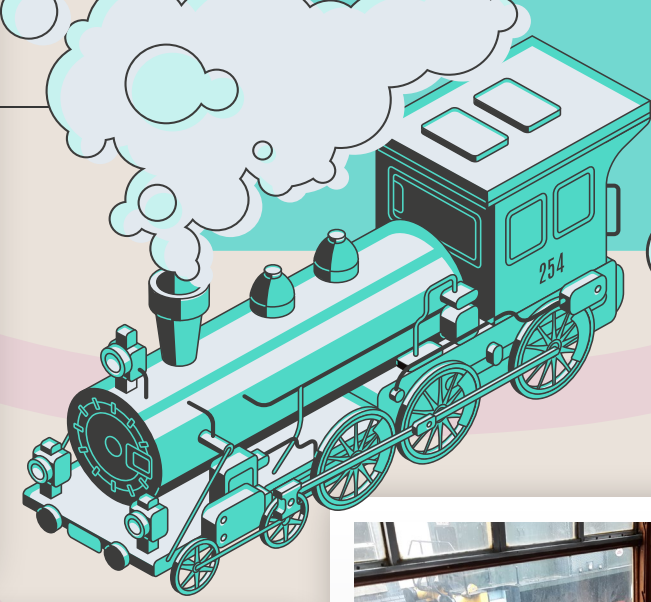
This week they have been putting their green fingers to the test by adding lots of different vegetable plants to the recent created "Hollow Veggie Patch". The students take great pride in this area of the garden and tend it independently.

We have been discussing the benefits of growing our own food and hope to use some of the produce in our cooking.



FOXES HIVE

Students at the Hive recently expanded their travel training and took a trip on the local steam railway to Watchet, where they enjoyed the sunshine and had a picnic to celebrate a students birthday!



FOXES LODGE & BURROW

This week at Foxes Lodge we brought back our 'Culinary Travels Around the World' and this time we "stopped" in Mexico. Our students loved making sombreros and moustaches while listening to Mariachi music. They had a three course meal of: rollitos, guacamole and tacos to start, empanadas with Mexican rice for their main and Azorr con Leche (Mexican rice pudding) for dessert.

They are making the most of the glorious weather we have had in Minehead for the past week and had a BBQ in the garden and played garden games.

The students have also paid a visit to the local Coastguard station and discussed the importance on RNLI in the local community.



FOXES ROOST

This week at the Roost, Yue and James have been taking part in their volunteering section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award during their PDHW time.

They have been out around the local community Litter picking.

Both Yue and James are very excited about going on their practice expedition at the beginning of June!



TEAMWORK



FOXES EARTH

On Wednesday, all of Foxes Earth had the day off, so they planned a sunny picnic in Blenheim Gardens for their lunch. All students loved being in the sunshine and playing frisbee with each other.

FOXES LOFT

Foxes Loft students practised their travel training to Watchet using the 28 bus this week. They checked the bus times using the First Bus app and travelled with their peers, making sure to keep their belongings safe.

All enjoyed visiting the East Quay art gallery in Watchet followed by an ice cream on the marina.

