

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy Friday parents and carers,

The Foxes machine has been in overdrive this week. Where despite approaching the end of term we are still accelerating in terms of trying to give our students as many opportunities as possible to increase their knowledge, skills and attitudes, in their journey towards greater independence and meaningful adulthood.

We were blessed to be invited to 'The Pig', an inspirational hotel and restaurant in Honiton where one of our graduates has been employed for the last 5 years. The Pigs ethos is anything they cannot grow or rear themselves, is sourced from within 25 miles, thus their '25 mile menu'. A group of students, selected from all year groups, had the opportunity to visit and find out more. You can read more about this and see the beautiful photographs taken from the day below.

We have also ramped up our travel training programme this week, with students taking a trip using 2 different modes of transport to experience the hustle and bustle of city life, which at times can be a far cry from our lovely seaside town (not including Butlins weekends where I think we could give even the largest cities a run for their money!).

Finally, I want to say thank you to you all for your incredible support this academic year. Foxes has seen plenty of change this year, but we have not deviated from our shared goal of giving our students the best opportunities to grow and succeed. You should all be incredibly proud of your young people, let's face it, living with people can be stressful, learning new things can be stressful, being taken outside your comfort zone can be stressful, yet every day our students amaze me and remind me of just how important being resilient is. We are still collecting results from our student survey, but to see that 100% of students 'enjoy their time' at college, means an awful lot.

I'm excited about what the next academic year will bring and to the third year parents I look forward to seeing you next week at the students' graduation.

Have a fantastic summer!

Mark Costello

PRINCIPAL, AURORA FOXES



A VISIT TO THE PIG AT COMBE

Some of our students had the fantastic opportunity to visit The Pig hotel and restaurant in Otter Valley, Devon this week for a guided tour of the kitchen gardens and hotel. Students were fortunate to have a close look at the extensive kitchen garden, herb and spice garden, mushroom patch, and livestock. They also enjoyed some woodfired flatbread pizzas and mocktails with a taster menu for lunch at The Folly followed by a tour of the high spec guest rooms that are on offer.



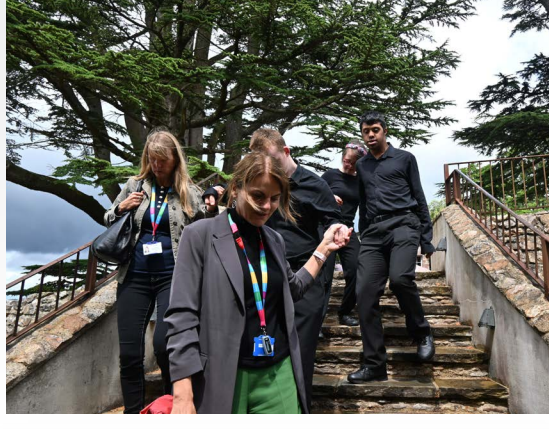
Hugo and the Electric Daisy

First year student Hugo said:

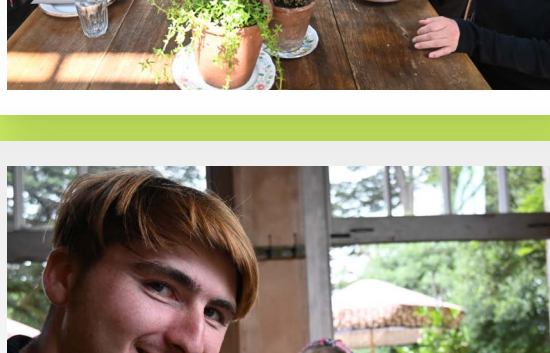
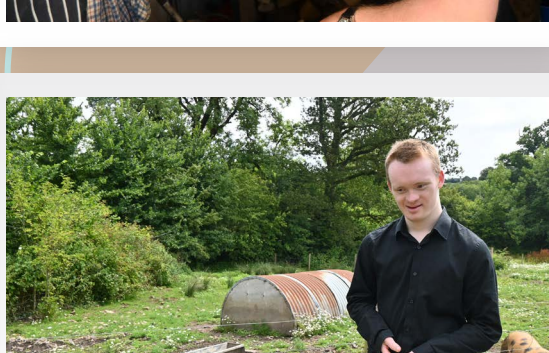
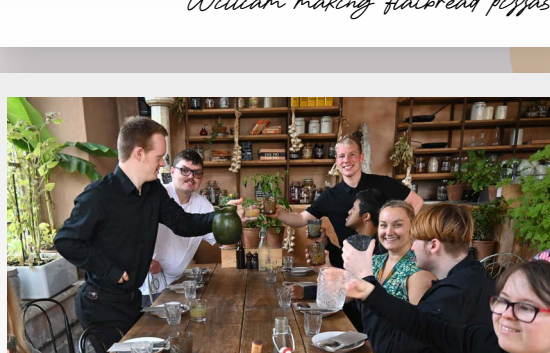
"I had the best time and enjoyed it very much. We looked at the kitchen garden with all the veg and fruit they grow; there wasn't a vegetable I couldn't find as they have so much. We also looked at the mushroom patch and they had oyster mushrooms growing in bags with hay. I really enjoyed the herb garden and found it very interesting to see an 'electric daisy' which is hot and cold and fizzy - you can eat this, and they use it in mocktail to look nice. I had a strawberry, lime, and lemonade mocktail and loved the food - really delicious flatbread with pickled onion and chorizo. It was a fantastic opportunity, and I would love to go back again, get me there anytime."



Ex-student (and tour guide) Cameron



William making flatbread pizzas



AN UPDATE FROM EDUCATION

All the students have worked so hard throughout this busy summer term, acquiring many new skills and more knowledge along the way; learning to transfer these skills into new areas of work and a range of supportive opportunities.

THIRD YEAR STUDENTS

A notable example of this sits with our third-year students as they have all demonstrated their best travel training and money skills when shopping for graduation outfits, accessories, make-up and more. This is something they have planned and budgeted for over recent weeks, looking at offers and savings, and exploring their spending options by researching shops and locations. Some students have travelled to Exeter and Bristol using trains and buses as modes of transport along unfamiliar routes with support, they have all done amazingly and we are all so proud of them for their hard work.

TRAVEL TRAINING

