

Newsletter

January 2024

Aurora
Boveridge College



Welcome to our January newsletter.

It's been a busy month as we have been celebrating a great set of results from exams sat in November. We have also hosted the Aurora Future Chef college finals which you can read about inside this edition, as well as news on our progress towards reducing our impact on the environment, our animals here at college and our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Matt Harper, Head of Therapy

FUTURE FOOD STARS



The Boveridge College finals of the Aurora Future Chef competition were held on Wednesday 17th January. Congratulations to Lily-Ann Hayward and Liam Bailey who will compete with other colleges in the Aurora final in Weston-super-Mare on 23rd February. The full report is inside...

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Curriculum News

Aurora Future Chef – Boveridge Final Wednesday 17th January

The Aurora Future Chef competition is a fantastic opportunity for all hospitality student's to develop their skills by entering a cookery competition with two other Aurora colleges. It is organised by Springboard, which is an organisation founded in 1990 to support the hospitality, leisure and tourism industry and those seeking employment within it. The competition is sponsored by Sodexo, who are one of the biggest food service and catering organisations in the world.

The nature of the competition is that it is in a very relaxed and supportive environment for students to develop not only their cookery skills but also their communication, social, and independence skills.

The students were given a brief to plan, prepare, cook and present a two course meal with two portions of each course. The initial stage of the competition was for students to submit their menu, including the name of the dishes, ingredients, cooking method, and how it would be presented. The dishes also had to be accurately costed and within budget.

Four students were then selected for the Boveridge final and these were:

Lily -Ann Hayward, Alfie Bedford, Lily Robinson and Liam Bailey.



On finals day we were joined by four external chef judges, who had nothing but praise for the standards that the students showed and how professional and well organised they all were.



All four students were judged on Workmanship Skills & Techniques, Creativity & Presentation and Composition, Taste and Flavour. The judges had an almost impossible job of choosing two winners but eventually they came to a decision and awarded the two final places to Lily-Ann Hayward and Liam Bailey.

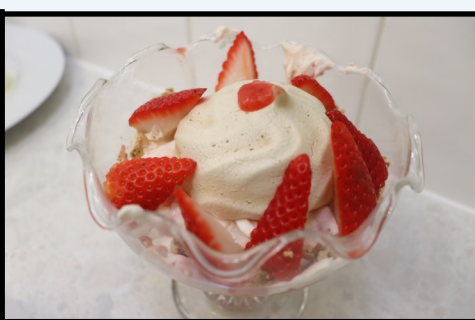
Lily-Ann's menu was Lebanese spiced meatballs, with a tomato and spinach sauce and roasted vegetable couscous, followed by a puff pastry baked apple, filled with cinnamon and sultanas, with caramel sauce and vanilla ice cream.



Liam cooked a homemade Cajun chicken and red pepper pizza followed by cinnamon buns with an icing glaze and vanilla ice cream. Lily-Ann and Liam will now go through to the Aurora final at Weston College in Weston Super Mare on 23rd February 2024 to compete against other Aurora future chef finalists.

Congratulations to all of the students that took part, they all should be very proud of their achievements.

Dan Spraggs, Hospitality & Tourism Lecturer



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Outdoor Education Trail Camera



In Outdoor Education we have spent a great deal of time getting to understand the daytime environment. We see a few deer in the distance; however, they are generally running away when they see us coming. So, on the 12th of December we started to place a trail camera in various parts of Perry Copse, home of Outdoor Education. It has been successful in allowing us to see what animals have been walking about the woods at night and early in the morning.

So far, we have caught on camera, Roe and Muntjac deer grazing at night, offering a unique glimpse into their nocturnal behaviours. The photo of the fox below was interesting as it saw the infrared lights on the camera come on and it promptly ran off. After each photo the camera takes a short recording of what it has seen so our knowledge of the animals and their behaviour is growing as we can see the deer grazing and generally just walking about.



This firsthand observation enhances educational experiences, providing students with a deeper understanding of wildlife interactions with the woodland environment. We will be logging the locations every time we catch an animal on the camera to see if there are any patterns relating to the times they come out. It's all new to us but is adding immensely to our understanding of the woodland environment.

Alan Barr, Outdoor Education & Life Skills Curriculum Coordinator

British Sign Language at Boveridge College

Hi Everyone,

At College, every morning, our students spend fifteen minutes in their tutor groups, to ensure everyone feels okay to start the day in the best possible way!

A few weeks ago, the mother of a student told me her son was interested in learning British Sign Language in order to help him communicate more effectively. I loved this idea, accepted the challenge and learned Spanish sign language, but unfortunately, sign language is different in every country!

I offered my students the opportunity to learn together every morning during tutor time after the register. They all liked the idea, and here we are, learning a new skill and having fun!



Why BSL, you ask?

We are learning this new language to help express ourselves more fully and understand others. It is an incredible opportunity to break the distraction cycle and engage. We are gaining cognitive skills, including memory, problem-solving, and spatial awareness. We are also promoting inclusivity, showing that we value and appreciate diverse forms of communication. We use visual and expressive language to communicate using words, gestures and facial expressions. In conclusion, we are embracing connection!

These are the resources we are using:

[Home - British Deaf Association \(bda.org.uk\)](http://bda.org.uk)

[BSL SignBank \(ucl.ac.uk\)](http://ucl.ac.uk)

[50 Quick and Easy Signs in BSL You Can Learn TODAY \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)

You can explore and use them, participate, or email me with new suggestions (maria.solis-haya@the-auroa-group.com).

Maria Solis-Haya, ICT Teacher

Animal Care

Here at Boveridge College we have a menagerie of different animals which are necessary in order for us to deliver the practical elements of all of our Animal Care qualifications, ranging from level one to level three. Our animals also promote mental health and wellbeing and contribute to a calm and relaxed atmosphere at college.

We have larger farm animals such as sheep, goats and alpacas, and smaller animals such as guinea pigs, hamsters and gerbils as well as reptiles such as a corn snake and a bearded dragon. We also have some ducks and chickens which were hatched here in 2022.

Students who are studying Animal Care here at college have the opportunity to work with these animals on a daily basis. They learn how to complete husbandry tasks such as cleaning out enclosures, feeding, grooming and health checking. For the qualifications, they also must complete health checks and behaviour observations. The animals are also used for students who sometimes just need a cuddle with them in order to self-regulate.

The goats are everyone's favourite as they are cheeky and naughty all at the same time. It is certainly true that they eat anything.....including students' work when they have been completing behaviour observations. A highlight of the year is the annual sheep and alpaca shearing...the sheep certainly give us a run for our money when we need to round them up!

Emily Sheppard, Animal Care Lecturer



Pastoral Update- Anti- Bullying Ambassadors



Lily-Ann Hayward and William Langford, our new Anti-Bullying Ambassadors for the college.

What is an Anti-Bullying Ambassador?

This is an opportunity for William and Lily-Ann to make positive change within the college. They will be responsible for helping to help prevent and deal with any potential bullying behaviour in the college.

Our ambassadors have learnt what it means to be an upstander and how to confidently deal with any bullying behaviour safely and compassionately. Furthermore, they can have their voice heard by teachers and staff when it comes to current bullying behaviour issues that the college might be facing.

David Bird-Hawkins, Pastoral Lead



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New Staff

Mia Morgan- Education Learning Support Practitioner



Hi, I'm Mia and I have been at Boveridge since the beginning of January now.

Previous to this role I worked in an animal hospital caring for sick and injured pets, it was incredibly rewarding, however after two years there I decided it was time for a change.

Boveridge is a beautiful college to work at, with an immense range of diversity. Everybody has been extremely welcoming and supportive and I am very much looking forward to exciting things that the future may hold.

Libby Vibert- Education Learning Support Practitioner



Hi, my name is Libby and I've been a staff member for four weeks now. Joining Boveridge has been amazing. I've been warmly welcomed by both the students and staff.

This is my first time working in further education, but I believe that Boveridge has been the most suited to me as a place to learn, due to the values and principles they stand for.

They have supported me and taught me so much in a short amount of time that I feel like I'm growing as a person each day that I am here.

I look forward to more happy times here.

Staff Profile

David Bird-Hawkins- Pastoral Lead

Hello, my name is David Bird-Hawkins and I am the Pastoral Lead for the college.

My main responsibility is for the general wellbeing of our students and staff within the college community.

I prepare the weekly tutorial lessons for our tutors to deliver to their groups. The tutorials cover personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), covering three main themes: Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and Living in the Wider World.



I support our young people on a 1:1 basis with relationships, mediation, debriefs and restorative practice.

Another part of my role is to capture and promote the student voice of the college, working closely with the Student Leadership Team. We regularly organise fund-raising and seasonal events, as well as asking the students for suggestions to improve their college community.

I am currently training to be

a Senior Mental Health lead so that we can develop and implement a whole college approach to mental health and wellbeing. I am one of four Mental Health First-Aiders; trained to have the knowledge and skills to spot signs of people experiencing poor mental health and how to signpost them to the appropriate support.

I have recently recruited two of our students as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and we are taking part in the United Against Bullying programme to ensure that we are doing all we can to reduce bullying and improve student wellbeing.

Before I joined Aurora, I was a Registered Care Manager for young people with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition. Prior to that I was a Care Support Worker. Overall, I have been working with young people with special educational needs for 15 years.

It is hard to believe that I have been here for almost three years in May! My job is so varied and interesting that every day is different. This is a fantastic place to work. It is a long but scenic commute, but it is worth it. The surroundings are beautiful, and I feel fortunate to work with so many wonderful students and colleagues.

Sustainability at Boveridge College

As a college, we have been taking into consideration the impact our decisions have on the environment, and looking into ways we can be more environmentally friendly and reduce our carbon footprint. At Boveridge we are looking to investigate our own micro-climate. Our new on-site devices will allow students to analyse and investigate the environment around us, and the changes over time. We will use technology to help us to do this...

Labdisc enviro

Our science department have received an exciting new multidisciplinary device that offers a compact tool for students to explore their environments reality. As a college, we can investigate changes in temperature and light, acid rain, water quality, temperature in our urban grounds (using GPS), altitude and air pressure and global warming.



National Geographic Weather Centre

This is our weather station that not only shows inside conditions however, wind speed, wind direction, rainfall, humidity and even barometric and air pressure outside. This will allow us to monitor and track these elements in our own micro-climate at Boveridge.



Anemometer

This new state-of-the-art device allows us to measure the wind speed through the trees and around the grounds as it is completely portable and easy to operate.

Students will be using this device to better understand the wind patterns in open spaces in comparison to parts of the grounds where there is a higher tree density.

This will allow us to better understand changes over time relating to wind speed and direction.



Net-zero contribution to recycling paper

We are aiming to increase the amount of paper recycling we carry out here at college. We have invested in a new unit to hold recycling bags prior to collection.



Cardboard found in recycling bins that will be recycled separately to paper. The college has always had a recycling bin for cardboard.

Alan Barr, Outdoor Education and Life Skills Coordinator

Careers and Transitions- upcoming events...

**Bournemouth
& Poole College**

**Apprentice & Employer
Special Event**

8 Feb 2024

Pavilion, Bournemouth

**Find
your perfect
employer
match!**



**Apprenticeships
Unlocked!**

**Save the date - book now:
thecollege.co.uk/unlocked**

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Exam Support

The following support is available if students are worried about exams...

This website is a good place to start for tips about dealing with exam stress...

[Exam Stress](#) | [How To Deal with Exam Stress](#) | [YoungMinds](#)

Instagram

The Therapy Team have created an Instagram page to enable all students to access support and information in and out of college.

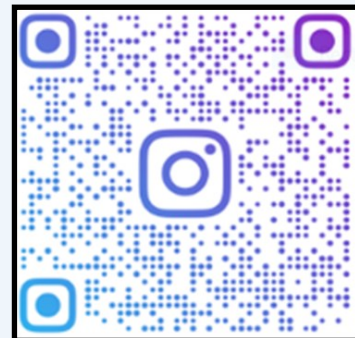
We will share positive tips and strategies that you can use at home to support your mental health and wellbeing.

Dealing with exam stress resources

Your teachers have access to a wide range of resources which can help you to cope with exam anxiety. Please ask your teachers or a member of the support team and they will help you to access these.

Please don't suffer in silence if you're worried about exams. You can talk to any member of staff here at college and they will be able to offer advice and find you the right support.

If you feel that you need any extra support in your exams such as someone to sit and guide you, please speak to Lee Dales (Examinations Officer).



English & Mathematics Revision Opportunities

An excellent range of English and Mathematics revision materials are available through the following links. These cover a range of resources for GCSE and Functional Skills...

Mathematics Revision

[AQA](#) | [GCSE](#) | [Mathematics](#) | [Assessment resources](#)

[Maths Genie - Free Online GCSE and A Level Maths Revision](#)

[GCSE Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Free GCSE Maths Online 10-Minute Tests](#) | [CGP Books](#)

[Home - MyMaths](#)



English Revision

[English - BBC Bitesize](#) - All Levels

GCSE and A level English

[senecalearning.com](https://www.senecalearning.com)

Login: Student Email address

Password: seneca2020

For subjects including Maths, English and Science with some free downloadable resources.

www.teachit.co.uk

Lots of visual resources for subjects including Maths, English and Science with some free resources [www.Twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)



Dan's Recipe of the Month- try this mild curry dish...

Chicken (or QUORN pieces) and Mushroom Curry

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp sunflower oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ chicken breast, sliced into 2cm strips (or QUORN pieces)
- 10 button mushrooms
- $\frac{1}{2}$ onion, finely chopped
- 1 tsp finely grated fresh ginger root
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ chilli, deseeded and finely chopped
- 1 tsp curry powder
- 1 tsp garam masala
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- 1/2 tbsp plain flour
- 2 tsp white sugar
- 300ml chicken stock
- 50ml plain yoghurt
- 140g rice



Method

- 1) Heat 1 tablespoon of oil in a deep frying pan or medium saucepan.
- 2) Season the chicken strips (or QUORN pieces) and brown quickly all over until sealed.
- 3) Remove with a slotted spoon to a small bowl.
- 4) Add the onions and mushrooms and fry for 2 minutes, lower the heat and fry for approximately 5 minutes, until softened.
- 5) Add the ginger, garlic and chilli and fry for 1 minute.
- 6) Sprinkle in the ground spices (curry powder, garam masala, turmeric, cumin) and fry for 2 minutes more.
- 7) Sprinkle over the flour then stir in the stock and bring to the boil. Turn to a simmer.
- 8) Wash your rice in a sieve in cold water until the water runs clear. Place in a saucepan of boiling water. Think about if you want to add any vegetables such as peas or sweetcorn and add these approximately half way through the rice cooking.
- 9) Stir once with a fork, turn to a simmer and cook for approximately 10 minutes. Do not stir whilst it is cooking. Drain in a sieve and place in a bowl ready to reheat to serve.
- 10) Return the chicken to the curry pan. Season with salt and pepper, add the sugar and stir.
- 11) Lower the heat, cover and simmer for 5-10 mins, until the chicken is cooked through. Taste and adjust the spices if required. Stir in the yoghurt.

Lunchtime Clubs

BOVERIDGE COLLEGE LUNCH CLUBS

1 – 1:30

EVERY DAY :-

Dog Walking (Jenny) – Horticulture Room

Craft Club (Kathy) – Maths Room 2 (All Lunch)

Wii Club (Dom) – Maths Room 1

Chess Club – History Room

FIFA Club (Sando) – Animal Care Room 1

MONDAY :-

Music Club (Paul S) – Motor Vehicle

Spanish Lessons (Maria) – ICT Room

TUESDAY :-

Pride Club (Emma) – Animal Care Room 2

Careers & Employability Drop In (Heidi & Carolyn) – Catering Room

Spanish Lessons (Maria) – ICT Room

WEDNESDAY:-

Music Club (Paul S) – Motor Vehicle

VR Club (Maria) – VR Cave

Film Club (Emma) – Animal Care Room 2

THURSDAY :-

Film Club (Emma) – Animal Care Room 2

Mindfulness Club – The Willows

VR Club (Maria) – VR Cave

FRIDAY :-

Motor Skills Club – The Willows

Music Club (Paul S) – Motor Vehicle

LUNCH CLUBS

Tuesday @ The Cottages, 12:30–1pm

Mindfulness Club:

SPEND LUNCH ENGAGING IN MINDFUL
GROUP ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COLOURING,
PAINTING, NATURE WALKS, AND
JOURNALING

Motor skills Club:

FUN ACTIVITIES TO USE YOUR MOTOR
SKILLS INCLUDING CRAFTS, LEGO, GAMES,
AND PUZZLES

LUNCH CLUBS

Wednesday @ The School, 12:30-1pm

Mindfulness Club:

SPEND LUNCH ENGAGING IN MINDFUL
GROUP ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COLOURING,
PAINTING, NATURE WALKS, AND
JOURNALING

Motor skills Club:

FUN ACTIVITIES TO USE YOUR MOTOR
SKILLS INCLUDING CRAFTS, LEGO, GAMES,
AND PUZZLES

LUNCH CLUBS

Friday @ The Willows, 1-1:30pm

Mindfulness Club:

SPEND LUNCH ENGAGING IN MINDFUL
GROUP ACTIVITIES INCLUDING COLOURING,
PAINTING, NATURE WALKS, AND
JOURNALING

Motor skills Club:

FUN ACTIVITIES TO USE YOUR MOTOR
SKILLS INCLUDING CRAFTS, LEGO, GAMES,
AND PUZZLES

Communication with College

Aurora Boveridge College creates an environment of inclusivity in which parent participation is encouraged.

The College encourages parents to contact their child's tutor as a first point of contact for general updates, questions and queries

Our priority is the well-being and education of all our students. We recognise that communication between students, parents and staff is vitally important to their education and residential care.

To ensure that all communication between home and College is positive, we ask parents, carers and guardians to follow the guidelines below when communicating with the College.

GUIDELINES

Phone calls are most appropriate for absences/lateness and immediate or urgent concerns. Parents are advised to contact the College Admin Office on 01725 551247 (8am-5pm Mon-Fri) for time sensitive or urgent issues. For the parents of residential students, please contact the Care Office. Please be aware that it may not be possible to make telephone contact with your child's tutor or teacher during the College day due to their teaching commitments.

Email/letter is suitable for non-urgent concerns boveridgecollege@the-aurora-group.com

All our staff will reply to an email/letter within at least **48 hours/ two working days** of receiving it (unless staff are on annual leave - a return email will indicate this for you). We would ask that parents/carers recognise that during that window staff will have teaching commitments, meetings and additional roles within the College that will not allow them to reply immediately. Parents are asked to bear in mind that the non-student time immediately preceding and following the College day is used for lesson preparation, marking, assessment, staff meetings, scheduled appointments, training and professional development. Therefore, for an immediate response, please use the telephone number/email detailed above.

We always endeavour to respond immediately but realise it's not always possible to address all general concerns this way as there may be further discussions and conversations to be had. In these situations a 'holding' email will be sent so you know your communication has been received and is being acted upon.

The College has a duty of care to its staff to protect them from intimidatory, threatening, vexatious or aggressive communication. We would ask that at all times you show our staff the same level of respect and courtesy that you would wish to be shown to you or your family. Our staff are very hardworking and well-meaning and undoubtedly share your desire for the very best for your child/our student. Our staff are also very busy professionals with limited time and capacity. Please be understanding and reasonable in your communications with us.

Communications that are deemed to be parental concerns/complaints will be acknowledged as such and will be dealt with according to the College's complaints procedures. These complaints procedures are available on the College website. We take all concerns seriously and in the first instance we will seek to resolve them as soon as possible and without the need to escalate through the stages of the policy.

We recognise our commitment and will endeavour to always communicate with parents/carers in a timely, appropriate and sensitive manner. Communication should be respectful, honest and courteous at all times. It should also be measured, proportionate and rational. We are committed to providing respectful and honest communication with parents. Good communication is the result of parents, staff and students working together, in partnership.

Communication with College- continued...

Depending on the nature of the concern, it may also be appropriate to contact the Head of Education - Assistant Head of Education or Head of Care - Deputy Head of Care.

EMAIL ADDRESSES OF KEY MEMBERS OF STAFF:

Principal : lloyd.richards@the-aurora-group.com

Vice Principal : liz.scott@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Education : lee.dales@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Care : jayne.shears@the-aurora-group.com

Head of Therapy : matt.harper@the-aurora-group.com

Admissions and Transitions Manager / Safeguarding Lead : polly.darch@the-aurora-group.com

Assistant Head of Education : odette.osborne@the-aurora-group.com

Deputy Head of Care : lucy.boot@the-aurora-group.com

Pastoral Lead Tutor : david.bird-hawkins@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : jennifer.white@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : paul.staniford@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : graham.haslett@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : suzanne.L-sanchez@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : janey.dillon@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : paul.com@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : emily.sheppard@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: adrian.parkin@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : emma.braund@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor : dan.spraggs@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: graham.jones@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: teresa.finch@the-aurora-group.com

Tutor: maria.solis-haya@the-aurora-group.com

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

If there is anything you would like to see included in future please email:
lee.dales@the-aurora-group.com