

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Lodge
Autumn Term 2023
 Curriculum Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to everyone. I hope you all had a lovely rest over the Summer Holidays and got to enjoy some of the earlier sunny weather together. I hope that the students are feeling refreshed and ready to embrace the new term, as we have some exciting learning opportunities for our young people to experience.

This term, we will be settling in a new cohort of students, which is so exciting; watching all our young people grow, develop new skills, being cheerleaders and supporting each other.

This term we will continue working on a mixture of Independence and Preparation for Adulthood skills. We will do this though our links to the local community, with our weekly trips out, cooking for life skills and our careers links. We aim to support our young people to make choices about their next steps in their learning journey though community visits whilst gaining knowledge in our AIM sessions.

We will continue cooking on a weekly basis; going into the local community buying our ingredients and cooking our entire meal each Wednesday. We will share these recipes with you on a termly basis to practice at home. We will also be accessing the local community, going to the local Library and accessing the café.

I have put this curriculum newsletter together, to share with you the topics and units of work that are being covered by The Lodge (Post 16) this term. This will give you the additional information needed to talk to your young person about their lessons. We are looking forward to an exciting and busy term and we hope that the students will enjoy it.

Our [topics/themes] this term will be:

Autumn Term 1	Gothic Literature - Focussing on the story of Dracula, we will be looking at the plot, characters, and set the scene of the story. Non- Fiction: Writing and following Instructions- creating new recipes for cooking for life skills.
Autumn Term 2	Winter Stories- We will be exploring the Nutcracker by ETA Hoffmann Non-fiction: The Media and Advertising

Our class are following The Independence Curriculum which includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as literacy, maths. Personal Development (PSHE, Careers, Work experience, Prep for adulthood skills) and AIM awards. Using a blend of group work, written work and role play to cover the topics.

Reading, Literacy and Phonics

Our young people this term will come into school and start their reading and practise writing their home address, or do some handwriting practice as a morning transition activity. The book we will be focusing on this half term is 'Dracula' by Bram Stoker. We will be using a range of methods to support our young people to learn the story, such as role play, class discussions, listening to the story and answering who, what, where, when questions. In Autumn 2 we will be focussing on the Media and advertising. We will be using local and national newspapers, magazines and TV documentaries to look at factual information given in the media. We will be examining information given in the media, looking at advertising, fair reporting and recalling of information. We will also continue 'Story Sharing' activities, where the students can tell their stories from their memory with staff supporting them. Story Sharing enables children and adults with communication difficulties to remember and share their own stories of everyday life. It enables our young people to have a voice, say how they are feeling,

make sense of things that happen to them and focus on what they can do. We use various mediums to re-tell our stories to support us, such as: Painting, drawing and at times writing them down.

Maths

This term, our maths curriculum will centre around the areas of number, encompassing counting and sequencing, estimations, place value, and proficiency in using a calculator.

PE

In the first half of the autumn term we will be working on team building, orienteering and health-related fitness. The last two to three weeks will be spent on indoor athletics activities. In the second half of the autumn term we will move onto team and invasion games such as kin-ball, bench ball, and boccia.

PSHE

In PSHE this term we will be exploring mental well-being, emotions and self-regulation. This will include what we can use in school or at home to manage our emotions, what is consent and how you can show that your consent has been given or withdrawn. We will think about having a boyfriend or girlfriend and how this is different to being friends. We will also be thinking about how to greet new people appropriately, understanding personal space and the difference between what you can do in public and private space. We will think about which parts of our bodies (or someone else's) that you can touch and which parts of our body can be touched by others, e.g. a trusted adult supporting you to keep clean, medical professional checking your body. We will also cover changes that happen to our bodies during puberty for males and females, personal hygiene, naming parts of the body correctly and the physical differences between males and females. PSHE classes will begin with the rules of the session and be held in a classroom with students of a similar age/ stage of development. If you need any support with changes that are happening to your young person at home, around puberty and the changes associated with becoming a young adult, I am happy to have a chat about any resources I use in class and share any good practice that may help support you at home. Please contact me if you have any concerns about the content shared in class and I can talk this through with you.

My Enrichment

We will continue working on AIM awards and this term we will be focussing on completing the Aim Qualification Entry level 2 Certificate in Skills for Living and Work (Personal Development). This is a 15 Credit award and is achieved on a modular basis. The modules that we will be working on are: Following Instructions, Managing Money, Bicycle Maintenance and Repair, Law and Order, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Applying for Jobs or Courses, Making Career Choices.

Moving Together will be continuing on a weekly basis working on weekly routines, keeping fit and working on a performance for the end of the year.

We will be continuing the local community visits as a class, accessing local interest community groups and going shopping to the supermarket and cooking our entire meal on a Wednesday. We will also be continuing to attend in the local community (on a day to be confirmed), visiting the library and a local coffee shop for a drink and a healthy snack. Within these sessions we will be practising skills which are role-played in class. These skills include using money, making choices, being independent, reading and decoding text and symbols in the community, communication skills and learning about appropriate behaviour when in public. Please continue to send in a £5.00 on a Thursday morning for our community visit in a named purse/wallet. The change and receipt will remain in the purse/ wallet for you to check at home.

This year we will be receiving Art lessons by a qualified secondary Art Teacher. Art will be delivered on a weekly basis. If there is enough interest a BTEC qualification in Art, this will be made available for selected students to work towards.

Electric Umbrella sessions will continue on a Wednesday afternoon. This is a music and movement group for young adults with special needs, it is fully inclusive and is co-run by disabled young people. This is a group that we joined in lockdown and have so much fun connecting to special schools all around the country. I will send out a permission slip to ask if your child is allowed to be on camera. If you would like to find out more about this group – see the link <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk>

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Things you could do at home

- When you read to your child or do any activity, encourage them to talk about what they are doing/what is happening/what they understand.
- Helping with household jobs
- Helping with the shopping and cooking
- Making choices
- Thinking about how you can help other people

If you are unsure about anything, please email me on aduc@birchwoodschoo.co.uk I am always happy to help you with any questions you may have about your child. The best time to call me is after school and I can arrange this with you on your preferred day.

Charlotte Adu
Class Teacher – Associate Assistant Head