



Dear parents and carers,

This term we will be working on a mixture of Independence and Preparation for Adulthood skills. We will do this through our links with 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 the choices about their next steps in their learning journey through visits to Colleges and making links in AIM sessions in our lessons times.

We will be cooking on a weekly basis, going into the local community buying our ingredients and cooking our entire meal. The recipes will be sent home on a weekly basis to practice at home. We will also be accessing the local community, going to the local Library and accessing the café. An additional letter will follow about this.

I have put this curriculum newsletter together, to share with you the topics and units of work that are being covered by The Lodge 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 and themes this term will be:

Autumn Term 1	Classic Literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional texts
Autumn Term 2	Non-fiction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News reports

Your young person is following the Independence curriculum. The Independence Curriculum offers a level of personalisation but includes more discrete subject teaching in areas such as Literacy, Maths and AIM awards.

Reading and Literacy

Our young people this term will continue to come into school and start their reading and practise writing their home address, or do some handwriting practice as a beginning morning transition activity. The students are really good at getting out their own things and some are needing less prompts in the morning. We will have a focus book this term and that will be 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley, which explores issues around the creation of a monster and how he saw the world and how others perceived him to be. In our second term we will be looking at Winter stories and focussing in on 'Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens. We will be using a range of methods to support our young people learn the story, such as role play, class discussions, listening to the story and answering who, what, where, when questions.

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, 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

In Maths this term we will be focussing on:

- Number
- Counting and sequencing
- Estimations
- Place value
- Using Calculator
- 2D shapes
- Patterns

PE

Term 1

In term 1 in PE we will be discovering and identifying different kinds of invasion games. We're splitting the term into two blocks. Starting the first 4 weeks with Football. This sport will be encouraging communication. For the further 3 weeks will be learning about rugby. In this invasion game we are going to be focusing on spatial awareness and agility.

Term 2

In term 2 we are splitting the terms again. Continuing with invasion games the sport we will be focusing on will be basketball. In this 4 week block, we will be trying to improve on our hand eye coordination. The further 3 weeks we will be looking at a sport called Kinball. Kinball is a fab sport as there are loads of things you can do with a Kinball. Our focusing is going to be accuracy but through hands and feet.

PSHE/ RHSE

This half term we will be focussing on conversations surrounding Consent, practising and understanding how to communicate this in a relationship. Exploring conversations around, Mental well-being, emotions, self-regulation, Consent. Having a boyfriend/girlfriend/Consent/Greeting people appropriately/Keeping clean.

We will be working in small groups, using power point presentations and having discussions to gain further understanding.

In Autumn 2 we will be slowly and carefully exploring conversations surrounding; Changes in Puberty Male and Female and Hygiene, Naming parts of the body, Physical differences between Males and Females. We will be working as a whole group and individually at times. We use a range of teaching methods and resources from the Northern Ireland Curriculum and newly from the sex factor. If you would like to talk to me about any of the issues covered in class, I am free at the end of the teaching day. Please drop me an email and I am happy to discuss the curriculum with you.

My Enrichment

We will continue working on AIM awards and this term we will be focussing on Household Shopping and Looking after yourself and your home in Aim awards – students will be working on AIM awards towards a Certificate or a Diploma in Independent Living, Looking after yourself and your home. Entry Level 2. 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 local supermarket and cooking our entire meal on a Wednesday. We will also be continuing to attend in the local community on a Friday, with a visit to the Library a local coffee shop for a drink and a healthy snack. Within these sessions, we will be practising skills role-played in class. These skills include using money, making choices, being independent, communication skills and learning about appropriate behaviour when in public. Please continue to send in a £5.00 on a Friday 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. (I will let you know when this is starting again).

Art - This year we will be receiving Art lessons from a qualified secondary Art Teacher. He will be delivering Art on a weekly basis. If there is enough interest a B-Tec in Art made be available for selected student's to work towards.

Electric Umbrella- this 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

Birch Wood Area Special school
Class The Lodge
Summer 2022
Curriculum Newsletter



in lockdown and have so much fun connecting to special schools all around the country. I will send out a permissions slip to ask if your child is allowed to be on camera. Drop me an email if you haven't already and you are happy for your young person to be on the screen. If you would like to find out more about this group – see the link <https://www.electricumbrella.co.uk>

Autism Progression Framework – we will begin to look at the 8 skills that will give us a baseline to work from. These skills are from the areas such as - Communication and Interaction, Social Understanding and Relationships, Sensory Processing, Interests routines and Processing, Independence and community participation, Healthy living, Learning and engagement, Emotional understanding and self-awareness. This will enable us to be more focused on what specific skills sets that we need to continue to develop.

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

In Post 16, we aim for your young person to have new and exciting opportunities, gaining readiness for their next learning journey, beyond Birch Wood School. If you are unsure about anything in the Independence curriculum on offer then please email me on aduc@birchwoodschool.co.uk.

I am always pleased to help you with any questions you may have about your child. Many thanks and we all look forward to an exciting term.

Charlotte Adu – Post 16 Class Teacher