

Dear All,

It has been a busy and productive half term. We have really enjoyed the face-to-face teaching and being able to take students back to classes and not just bubbles. The students have been working hard to meet their targets and find individual strategies to help them be successful back at school.

We have enjoyed being outdoors on a Friday and are looking forward to visiting Whipsnade Zoo on Friday 22nd October 2021.

We say goodbye to some students, who are reintegrating successfully back into school. We wish them good luck and remind them to keep on making positive choices. Remember we will be randomly popping in to say hello!

Enjoy half term and take care,

KS3 Team

### This half term in photos



**KS3 Fund Raising** We worked as a team to raise £52.08 (and a random €1) to support Macmillan. We are really proud of the empathy displayed by the learners when discussing the charity and they all enjoyed baking, decorating and tasting the cakes! Next half term we will be supporting the local charity DENS.



### KS3 PE – Tennis

This term learners have got stuck into tennis lessons which have been thoroughly enjoyed by all. Learners initially were not eager to play tennis, having not really enjoying it at their mainstream schools. However, with some encouragement all participants now adopt a more positive attitude towards sport! It has been lovely to witness their change in attitudes and competitiveness.

**Going Wild at Hudnall Park** Fridays have been a great success at Hudnall Park. The learners have been set challenges such as, to build a shelter that can withstand a bucket of water. They have learned about wildlife and were in awe of seeing the herd of deer and stags roaming free. They have had the freedom to choose which activities they would like to do including: setting up cameras to catch wildlife in action, building fires safely, using tools, playing games or just lazing in a hammock!



### KS3 Virtual Learning

Just a reminder that there is a virtual learning slot on the timetable for each session your child is not in centre or school. Every learner has been shown how to log in to their MS Teams area and will be asked to join a video call with one of the staff at the appropriate time. After a check-in and explanation of the day's task learners will be expected to complete the work and either submit it online or bring it to centre.

**Virtual Learning Star: Poppy!**

**Mental Health** At DESC, we value your child's mental health and wellbeing. Talking to others about our feelings can be a challenge and sometimes we find it hard to express how we are feeling.

Staff at DESC are always on hand to offer support where needed. Alternatively, the following national organisations also offer support:

**The Mix** - confidential support for young people:  
[www.themix.org.uk](http://www.themix.org.uk) 0808 808 4994

**On My Mind** - make informed choices about mental wellbeing: [www.onmymind.info](http://www.onmymind.info)

### Notices:

Uniform: a great effort this half-term with all learners wearing the correct uniform to centre. Please remember to wear your full uniform on school visit days!

As the weather gets colder and muddier please wear suitable old, warm clothes for Outdoor Learning on Fridays.

Healthy snacks and drinks only before centre, thank you.