

# DESC

## "Be the best you can be"

Spring Term 1st half 2024

KS3

Dear All,

After another busy term at KS3, we head into February half-term reflecting on all we have accomplished. We have taken part in learning outside the classroom activities, a visit from Zoolab and their exotic collection of animals, shown respect when visited by PCSO's and the Police Diversion Team.

We have had many learners come through our doors and most moving smoothly on to their next destinations, whether back to school or a new start.

Learners continue to progress in their self-regulation and self-awareness and we are working hard to develop their sense of self worth.

We hope you enjoy the holidays and we look forward to seeing you next half-term, when we drop in to visit.

All the KS3 Team



**Learning Outside the Classroom** We have been lucky enough to continue our Go Wild sessions at Hudnall Park this half term. It is always fantastic to see the learners enjoy the awe and freedom that being outdoors allows. We have become masters at fire building – this may be so we can keep warm on the cold mornings or so we can make smores! The learners have worked together to complete challenges, helped support the younger students and had lots of fun rolling tyres and cooking stir fry.



**KS3 Zoolab** On Tuesday 30th January we had a visit from Lily the Zoolab ranger, who brought in a number of different exotic animals. The learners & staff conquered their fears and pushed themselves outside of their comfort zones by not only looking at the animals but also touching and holding them. The animals included a stick insect, giant African snail, snake and our favourite a leopard gecko. We learned about how their bodies are adapted to their surrounding and how they defend themselves.



### Links with the Community

We have continued to develop links with the community and welcoming visitors. We have been visited by the local PCSO's and made their Facebook page! Link schools were invited in for a coffee morning to see the work the HUB learners have been doing. Detectives Fiona & Holly from the Herts Prevention and Diversion Police Team have lead sessions with our HUBs too.



### Dual School HUB

We have just completed our first 'Dual School HUB', trialing the learners being in school in the morning and at DESC in the afternoon. Our learners have made progress in controlling their emotions and especially enjoyed lunch and playing basketball. Hopefully, they enjoyed the sessions as much as we enjoyed teaching them.

### 12 week HUB

We say goodbye to our Snowdon HUB, who have all now reintegrated back into school. We are sad to see them go, but happy that they are engaging in lessons and using the strategies we have helped them to develop. We will keep in touch to hear how you are doing.

