

# beyond expectations...

MAY 2020

## ...news from Henshaws Specialist College



ADRIAN SUGDEN  
PRINCIPAL

What a strange time we are living through and it is challenging on many levels. The College, although running on reduced numbers, has been determined to remain open and support as many of our students as we can. It is a little surreal, but we remain focused on our students' success through and beyond this crisis. There has still been lots going on. The Department for Education has shown interest in the innovative transition work of our 'Next Steps' programme. We have also been on BBC Look North a couple of times highlighting the struggle families have finding provision like Henshaws and also how the College have supported key worker families through the Covid crisis. Lastly, I'd like to say thank you for everyone who has supported College through this difficult time.

### A glowing report from CQC



We're delighted to announce that we've had an overall rating of "Good" in our latest inspection by the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The responsiveness of our service was deemed "Outstanding" meaning that they believe our service is tailored to meet the needs of individuals. The report highlighted how students became involved in lots of different activities and led fun and fulfilled lives. We're super proud of our team and of course our wonderful students on this fantastic achievement.

### ★ Fantastic fundraising ★

During these difficult times, it's so important that we can continue supporting all our students and service users. We launched a fundraising appeal earlier in the year to ensure we can do just that. We've been amazed by everyone's fundraising efforts, which have already raised £111,000 for Henshaws charity. What an achievement! As well as donations we've benefitted from online pub quizzes, runners in fancy dress, online art sales, and continued sponsorship for The Yorkshire 3 Peaks Walk. If you'd like to get involved please contact our fundraising team on [fundraising@henshaws.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@henshaws.org.uk) (Pocahontas fancy dress optional!).



### OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY



We are blown away by the support from our parents, carers, wider stakeholders and the local community in the past couple of months. We are so grateful for the words of encouragement from our governors, and local businesses who have offered priority shopping or thank you gifts for staff. We've loved hearing all about the amazing achievements of our students who are at home. Please keep sharing them - our staff are really missing all our young people and it would brighten their day!

# Our students are amazing!

Celebrating achievements and sharing stories about our wonderful young people.



It's very unusual for sensory student **Harry** to interact with other students, but in a recent session staff witnessed him being happy and relaxed sharing resources and interacting with **Lily**. An unexpected and wonderful moment.



Our students were very keen to get involved in this visit from the Fire and Rescue service. Lots of them enjoyed taking a look at all the equipment and even taking a seat in the fire engine like **Nicholas** pictured here.



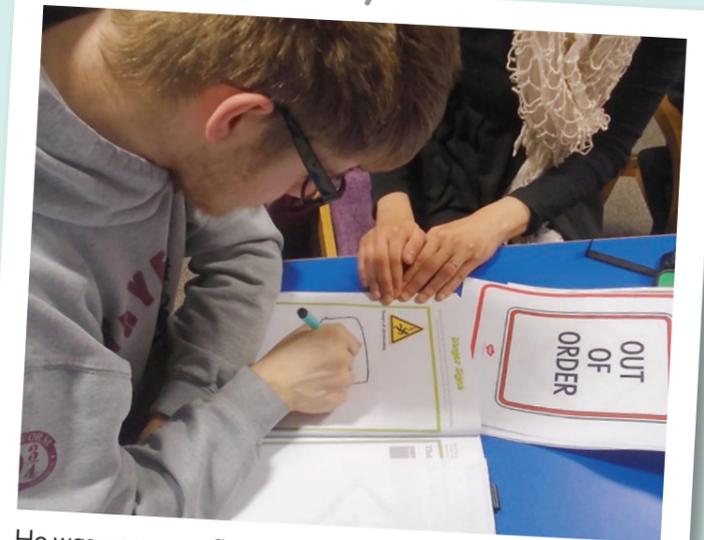
**Marnie** did a fantastic job completing her treasure hunt. She was set a challenge to navigate her way around college and find a series of clues which spelt out a mystery word. The word was 'independent' which sums up Marnie perfectly.



**Rosie** has been learning to use a switch to make choices, and she has been recently using it with her own iPad. It has boosted her confidence and is supporting her aspiration to make independent choices about how she fills her time.



With the help of our team **Isla** has been able to get out of her chair or away from her walking frame and accessed some of the gym equipment here at College, including the treadmill and the rowing machine. Such an amazing achievement!



He was unsure at first, but **Alfie's** confidence has grown so much in his PSHCE sessions. He will now ask questions, share experiences and write independently. His instructor described him as a "pleasure to teach". Well done Alfie!



Students really enjoyed a talk from Police officers recently where they even got to try on a police uniform. A lovely picture of **Mitchel** with the two officers who visited.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter for the all latest updates from College and our amazing students.

 /henshawcollege

 @henshawcollege

# Welcoming our first student nurse

Earlier in the year, our clinical team welcomed their first student nurse on a two week placement. Sofia came from the University of York to work with our clinical staff and see what life at College was all about. Sofia was made to feel very welcome by the team whose role it is to support students with any nursing needs they have so that they are able to enjoy their education.

We accommodate placements across lots of different areas of the college. Contact us to find out more.



## Virtual therapy sessions

Supporting students who are currently at home rather than in College has been a challenge for everyone. But our staff have done a brilliant job at using technology to stay connected. Our Therapy,

Educational and Sensory support team have offered virtual speech and language therapy sessions to students, and our physiotherapist Lee created a fantastic Tai Chi video, with simple instructions to get our students moving at home.



## Putting learning into practice

In February students on our new childcare course had a brilliant opportunity to take part in an off-campus visit to a local nursery. They prepared some fantastic activities which they look with them; a braille resource and a counting activity with Disney princesses.

The students gained real life experience of what it is like to work with children in a busy childcare environment. They came away from the visit excited and motivated to learn more on their course and future nursery visits. A massive thank you to Sunbeams Day Nursery for helping us to achieve this.



## Supporting our key workers

Patrick is one of our starting point students whose parents both work for the NHS. Although the College has only been open to a small number of students in the past few weeks, Patrick is one of them. It has meant that his parents are able to work and that he is given a much needed sense of security and familiarity during this difficult time. His mum, Catherine said about the college "I just think they're amazing really," during an interview about the College which was featured on BBC Look North.

## We're open for applications



If you know anyone who is looking for a College place for September 2020, we'd love to welcome them to Henshaws. Although the site is currently closed to visitors, our staff are still busy behind the scenes. Our transitions team are here to help with any questions, and we'll even guide you through the application process. Get in touch to find out more.



Find us on Facebook and Twitter for the all latest updates from College and our amazing students.

[henshaws.ac.uk](http://henshaws.ac.uk) @henshawscollege /henshawscollege

Please get in touch with your comments or suggestions for future issues of beyond expectations.

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