

Dear All,

Summer is here! We are all thoroughly enjoying this wonderful weather. It is so thrilling to see so many of our students and staff embarking on day trips and accessing outdoor spaces within the community. We were also really proud to, at last, be able to offer a My Day Student Holiday—our first since the pandemic. More about this on page 5!

Students and staff from across all Hubs enjoyed a short break at *Doniford Bay*. As always, our staff have been working hard to facilitate a wide range of person-centered activities and events to get involved with, we are excited to share these with you in this newsletter.



Staff News

We think it's important to keep you all up to date with our latest new additions to the Staff Team, and say goodbye to those who are sadly moving on.

We are delighted to welcome Cheryl Hutchings, Carol Clarke and Gayle Nicholls to the team. We are also looking forward to welcoming Rhiannon and Stacey over the next few weeks.

Cheryl will be working across the service as a Support Worker. Gayle is going to be working in the Oaks Hub as the newly appointed Deputy Team Leader. Carol supports students in the Staplegrove Hub.

We said goodbye to Debra Cooper from the Bridgwater Hub recently. Debbie Bentley will also be leaving us towards the end of June. We wish both Debbie and Debra all the best on their future endeavors.

In other staff news, we are delighted to announce that Mel Avis will be heading off on maternity leave at the end of June! Congratulations Mel!

In Mel's absence, Natalie Kinsella will be assuming the role of Acting Team Leader in the Staplegrove Hub. Natalie will be available to contact on Mel's normal mobile number.

Finally, we are super happy to report that Sam Fidler, Support Worker at the Bridgwater Hub, has recently become engaged to his girlfriend, Laura. Congratulations!



Left to Right: Cheryl, Gayle, Carol, Debra, Debbie, Mel, Natalie, Sam

Natalie, Sam

Vehicle Maintenance - The Barn Hub

Written By: Martin Vickery, Deputy Team Leader

On Monday mornings, three of the Barn students choose to take part in our weekly Motor Mechanics and Valeting session. What an amazing way to start the week!

We are fortunate enough to have an old car to work on, so we can do with it what we want. In the few weeks we have been running these sessions, we have learnt about the different parts of the engine that need checking and sometimes topping up to keep the car running efficiently.

We have taken the wheels off and learnt about the braking system and identify the components needed to make the car stop safely. To break up the session, the students are learning how to valet the car to a good standard which initially is washing and hoovering but this will progress into polishing and basic detailing.

The students really enjoy this session and love getting stuck in as well as learning something new.



Swimming - The Farm Hub

Written By: Sam Burdon, Team Leader

We are so proud of Nicola today. When we started our swimming sessions at Taunton pool last year, she was using a swimming woggle/noodle. She swam as a child but that was many years ago and she had since lost her confidence. Week by week she has been building up her confidence and today for the first time she swam a length alongside staff to the deep end. In fact not just once but 3 times! (6 lengths in total). Well done Nicola, what a fantastic achievement!



Swimming - The Staplegrove Hub

Written By: James Delaney, Support Worker

Joe and Tommy go swimming on a Thursday morning. Instead of just swimming each week, we had a discussion about doing something with this session to aim for. I suggested the challenge of swimming the English Channel. The guys agreed and were excited to get going!

We sat down and worked out that it was roughly 22 miles from point to point, this worked out at 702 lengths in a standard swimming pool. We did the maths and established that if we swam 15 lengths per week, it would take us around 57 weeks.

To date, we have been swimming weekly for 11 weeks, completing a grand total of.... 195 lengths so far! How awesome is that?

Joe and Tommy count down the lengths each week and feedback has been that they are really enjoying the challenge. This has been such a success that the students are considering starting a fundraiser to raise money for charity to support their efforts. Well done Joe and Tommy, we are all so proud of you for working so hard and being so passionate about this challenge.



Doniford Bay Holiday

Written By: Various Staff & Students

In May, Students from across the service embarked on a journey to Doniford Bay Caravan Park. Accompanied by staff: Ruth, Millie, Rainey, James & Jan, students enjoyed a fun-filled week away. Students got stuck into the wide range of activities which are held daily at the Park.

This is the first holiday which My Day has facilitated since the pandemic, making it even more special seeing everyone together and enjoying themselves.

We had such positive feedback from staff and students involved. Linda commented that she liked the clubhouse and the dancing. She enjoyed the music and playing bingo. She said that the group had engaged in lots of fun activities, going for walks, swimming, and playing on the slide.

Another student fed back:

I really enjoyed the My Day Holiday as it was a lot of fun.

I enjoyed the arcade and the club house as the entertainment was brilliant.

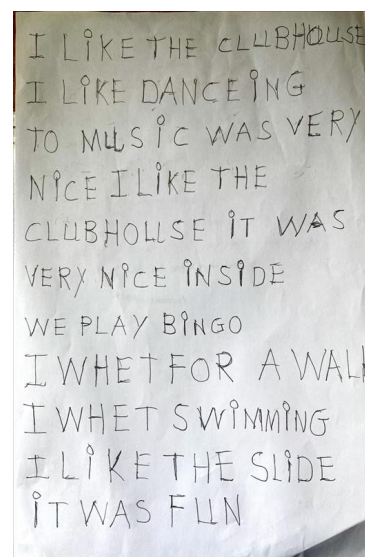
I enjoyed the food every evening. I enjoyed the caravan as I had my own double bed!

I liked going to Minehead with a group and I also enjoyed going to Doniford Farm Park with everyone on the holiday.

Support Worker, Millie, who accompanied students on the holiday, said:

This was my first experience supporting students on a My Day Holiday to Doniford Bay. It was so nice to witness all the students enjoying themselves. We saw a huge difference in the students on the holiday compared to when in the hubs. Students were able to go swimming with their friends from other hubs and engage in different activities, such as: Swimming, Archery, Dancing / Entertainment, Walking to Doniford Farm Park, Crazy Golf and meals together.

For me, it was amazing to have the chance to get to know students from other hubs and work with staff members whom I wouldn't usually. It was so rewarding to see students spending time with friends from other hubs. It truly brought together the My Day Family and an amazing time was had by all, students and staff alike.



Umbrella Display and Fundraising for Taunton Open Door

Written By: Cath Bradley, Administrator

Last year, Students from all hubs decorated 10 umbrellas for display in the Orchard Shopping Centre, Taunton, to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. Somerset Council put the umbrellas on display for the Kings Coronation!

After they were taken down post-coronation, we decided that they were simply too amazing to sit in a cupboard, so Go Create kindly held an online auction of our umbrellas, in aid of the homeless charity, Taunton Open Door.

The Auction raised a whopping £300, which Cath delivered to grateful recipient, Open Door, who informed us that this would be going towards rucksacks for clients, new baking trays (the clients love being baked sponge cakes for pudding), socks (the most needed item at the moment) and they will also be buying some meat so that they can enjoy a roast dinner once a week for a few months.

We chose to support Open Door with this project as we have a volunteer placement with them each week. We help by doing their grocery shopping and also by sorting and taking their recycling to the recycling centre.



'Blooming Lovely' Hanging Baskets for Sale - The Farm Hub

Written By: Martin Barter, Deputy Team Leader

Some of the students at the Farm Hub have worked together to create some beautiful hanging baskets, which have been sold to raise money for Friends of My Day. The project was a great success and I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who purchased a hanging basket and supported the project. In total we managed to raise an amazing £100.



Acorn Café Work Experience - The Bridgwater Hub

Written By: Bridget Marsh, Deputy Team Leader

In March, 2 Students from the Bridgwater Hub started volunteering in the Acorn Café, which is a community café run by students and Staff at the Oaks Hub.

Their confidence has grown each week as they get to know the running of the café, each taking turns doing the variety of roles, from meeting and greeting, taking orders, making drinks, giving the orders and making sure the customers are happy.

The Café can be busy at times and each student there is friendly, approachable and enjoys meeting and making new friends - which in turn is improving their self esteem and developing skills to work within a team, giving them a sense of purpose.

Please visit the acorn café, where you will certainly receive a warm welcome!



Wow! What a busy few weeks. I always look forward to hearing about what the different hubs are getting up to, and being able to put some of the highlights together in this newsletter is always an honour. I am so content to be writing this having observed weeks of fun, laughter, learning, and relaxation throughout the service.

On a personal note, I wanted to extend my gratitude to all of the team who work so hard to enable our students to unlock their potential, discover their independence, empower them to make positive choices and engage in meaningful and person-centred activities.

Over the past few weeks, we have seen a magical sense of community across our service, the brighter weather bringing activities outdoors, meeting up with friends, enjoying the great outdoors.

We are so lucky to work with some inspirational individuals, all of whom are unique and bring their own skills and personality into our service to form the ever growing My Day Family.

As always, if you need anything, please do get in touch and we will try our best to answer any questions you may have.

Just a quick reminder that we have a private Facebook group where most of our daily photo uploads are posted. If you're reading this online, you can click the link below. If not, simply search 'My Day Closed Facebook Page' and request to join.

I hope you all have an amazing Summer!

Lucy Durman

Director, Service Lead

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucy Durman".

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