

*This has been an extremely busy and productive term for all pupils. On behalf of everyone at AVESC I would like to wish all pupils and their families a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all in the new year, stay safe!*

*Tom England—Headteacher*



### Term Dates

The Centre closes for Christmas on Thursday 18th of December 2020 and reopens on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

**Inset Days:** Monday 4th January 2021 & Friday 15th January 2021

The Centre closes for half term on Friday 12th February 2021 and reopens on Monday 22nd February 2021.



Sawley Students decorating the tree ready for Santa's big arrival...! hope you've all been earning your behaviour reward points!



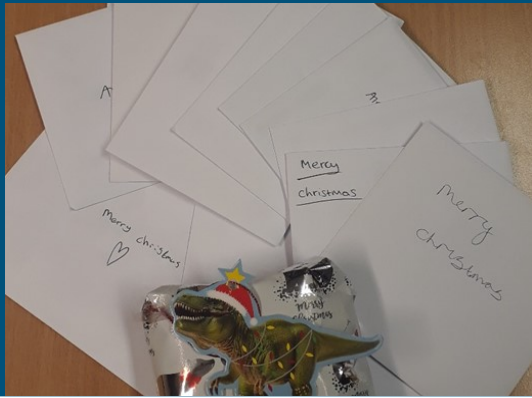
On Friday the 11th December, Christmas Jumper Day, Bennerley had their Christmas dinner.

After a busy morning finishing off progress tests, preparing the classrooms and with Christmas songs playing in the background, dinner was served. And what a dinner it was cooked by our very own Mr McKee.

Pupils were joined by our two Think for The Future mentors Alex and Nathan, the Therapeutic Counsellor Tracey and her husband David, who runs the Dungeons and Dragons intervention sessions for our pupils. They have all provided continuous support for our students throughout this first term and having them join us proved to spread more Christmas joy.

After staff and pupils had finished their first, or should I say second, helpings of both Christmas dinner and the desserts that followed; the Christmas spirit continued to be spread in our Amber classroom through the showing of Disney's Frozen. However, the majority of our students opted to burn off some of that extra energy provided by the Christmas dinner, by having a football match in their extended break with some members of staff.

The day was a roaring success that was extremely appreciated by all that attended. A massive thank you to all staff that gave up their time to help prepare and serve the food, and to those who helped with the cleaning effort! It was a lovely way to begin the countdown to finishing, what has been a great but challenging term.



## SPREADING CHRISTMAS CHEER

This year Sawley students have spread some Christmas cheer by writing Christmas cards to all the residents at Alexandra Care Home in Long Eaton and Falcon House in Beeston.

### *Buildings update...*

Construction work has started at the Sawley site, as a new reception area is being built and should be ready for February.

### KS4 Qualifications:

So far this term the total number of KS4 qualifications is: 19.

That's 10 Functional Skills Entry Level qualifications in English and 16 Functional Skills Entry Levels and 3 Functional Skills Level 1 qualifications in Maths. Well done!

During Anti-Bullying week the pupils at Kirk Hallam site explored if 'banter and teasing' on social media is bullying. The children across both Key Stages were very engaged in the topic and all had the opportunity to give their opinions and debate their views. A pupil in Key Stage 3 had the stark realisation that his behaviour at mainstream school was a result of being teased by his peers both on social media and in person. He concluded that this was bullying and wasn't ok.

Collectively pupils agreed that when the person who is being teased or being 'bantered' is not finding it funny then it should stop immediately.

Dylan, 13, 'I think it was a really good morning, it has made me realise that I should perhaps think before I send messages between my friendship groups.'

Frankie, 9, 'All teasing is wrong, especially if it is aimed at one person, it is not fair.'

All this constant banter,  
it really fuels my anger.  
I just want to keep it light,  
but others make me want to fight.  
Jealousy is a bad emotion,  
it doesn't make devotion.  
It's nasty and cruel,  
and it's really not cool.  
All this violence,  
just makes silence.  
People need to stand tall,  
or this world will fall.  
I stand alone with no one near,  
my actions make me shed a tear.  
Sorry isn't enough to say,  
but I hope we can be friends one day.

Poem by Ryan, aged 13.





## WE WISH YOU EVERY SUCCESS LEAH

When I looked around, I didn't see who was at the school or how it really was. I felt nervous starting back at school having missed some time. I started with two other new pupils in the morning and met the rest of the pupils after break. We would finish at 12 which I thought was better than starting in lessons straight away and helped me feel settled in.

When we started lessons that's when I called it my first day. I saw all the big people especially Kyle. I was nervous and felt small like no one was going to like me, but I was wrong. I felt like I didn't really fit in because I was just scared, I worried I would say something that would make the class not like me. As I began to feel welcomed, I made friends with people called Jamie and Codie and I felt accepted.

My favourite thing to do here is Art because it's like a calming break subject and it just makes you feel relaxed and confident. Something I wasn't looking forward to was Maths. I hated Maths but now with Miss Leighton's support and funnies it got easier for me and I found I could do more difficult work. I enjoy all my lessons here, and I like it here. There's been so much help and support for me at Bennerley and I appreciate everything.

I am now leaving to move to another school, I will miss everyone here and all their jokes. They have all brought me into a better place in the world. I have learned from my mistakes but if it wasn't for everyone here, I wouldn't have understood what was right or wrong and reflected. Leaving this amazing school has been very difficult for me but things happen for a reason and that is the worst. It will be hard, but I am looking forward for starting a fresh.

I want to thank Jamie for being a best mate and helping me pick the right decisions. I want to thank Miss Leighton for the chats and trust you have given me. I want to thank everyone for giving me new actions to undertake.

Leah, aged 13.

## WHAT'S NEW IN APT

We welcome Vikki Donson, a new member of staff to our expanding team.

We have a new alternative provider in Burton on Trent. Elite Education, offers vocational studies including motor vehicle, animal care and catering for pupils living closer to that area of the county.

Parkside High in Ilkeston now has a dedicated building and can offer education on their own site.

We are using a new online interactive teaching tool called 'Bramble' that staff can use to support remote learning for pupils in APT.

### Exams

Many pupils have continued to complete their entry level exams in English and Maths. Those pupils who are ready to sit level 1 and 2 exams will be able to in the new year.

### Careers

Many colleges and post 16 providers are now holding open days virtually for year 11 pupils. Your child's keyworker will be able to provide more details about these as they arise.

The Learning Curve Group in Ripley are holding open days on the 1st Thursday of every month from 1-4pm for drop-in sessions. Their Study Programme offers a combination of a vocational qualification, Maths/English, Employability Skills, work experience and Customer Service. Each Study Programme is built around each individual learner. Vocational options include:

- Construction Skills Level 1
- Hair & Beauty Level 1
- IT Level 1
- Health & Social Care Level 1
- Childcare Level 1 and 2



### Santa's Secret Store at Kirk Hallam site

As Pupils couldn't arrange a Christmas Art and Craft Fair this year, donations of gifts created 'Santa's Secret Store'. This gave pupils an opportunity to purchase special Christmas gifts for loved ones and wrap them ready to take home and put under the Christmas Tree. This event has had a positive impact on the well being of the pupils and families and is getting all on site in the Christmas mood!

We are sure there will be some happy people on Christmas day at the homes of our pupils!

Mason, aged 10 said: 'I've never done anything like this before! I loved being able to get my brother and sister a present!'

Pupils at Kirk Hallam raised over £100 for Save the Children!

