



# RoundUp

## Summit Learning Trust News



### Also in this issue:

- The Gambia Project 2023
- Reading Workshops

*#ScalingNewHeights*



A huge thank you to our parents, carers, families and communities for supporting our academies to achieve so much with our learners this term. Our schools and college have been hives of activity during the final week of the Autumn term, with learning time maximised and a significant amount of work taking place with our communities. In the true spirit of Christmas, we can all be proud of the efforts made by our learners in supporting charitable initiatives which will help those with the greatest need in our communities. Thank you to those learners who have completed voluntary work and raised funds for the University Hospital Birmingham (UHB) Charity, our Trust's chosen charity.

Our Summit Base Camp programme continues to develop, ensuring that we provide a consistent level of support for our children and young people across our schools and college to enable them to make strong levels of academic progress. Our schools and college provide a comprehensive range of support for learners where needed, so please do not hesitate to contact your child's academy where this is required.

A key focus for our academies in 2024 will be to further develop the independent study that our children and young people complete beyond timetabled lessons, whether this be in their college or school after hours or at home. Despite this being a strength in many areas, there is still much to do to enable Summit learners to compete with the very highest performing learners nationally and internationally. This work is in line with one of our values, Success through Endeavour, and we thank parents and carers with their support here. Our learners have an entire week following the Christmas and New Year festivities before returning to lessons, and this will give all a great opportunity to read, complete independent work and for many, prepare for forthcoming examinations. By working collectively, we can ensure that all our children and young people are fully prepared to be highly successful now and in their working lives.

Thank you all for your ongoing support for your child's school or college.

Have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Vince Green  
Chief Executive Officer

## Welcome



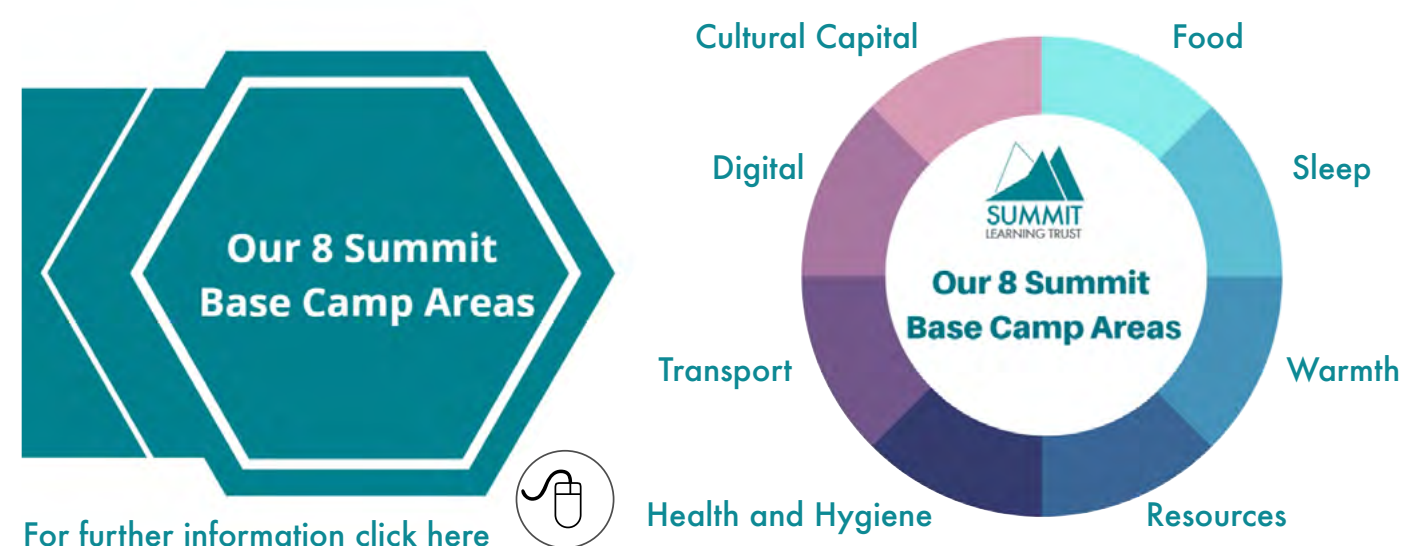
## What is Summit Base Camp?

Prior to scaling new heights, we need to ensure that our children and young people are fully equipped at Base Camp prior to beginning their ascent.

As with any expedition which involves scaling heights, we will work to provide a minimum level of support for any learner that requires it to ensure that they are able to begin their ascent, and ensure that as a Trust we can fulfil all elements of our Mission.

## Summit Base Camp Aims

To ensure that every learner has the following basic needs met to enable them to achieve the highest levels of academic progress whilst being provided with a rich educational experience:



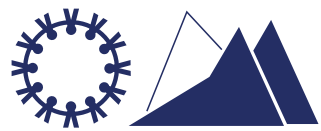
**The Base Camp work will target our learners who need it most. We will mindfully ensure that some initiatives explicitly and sensitively support our colleagues, notably those most affected by rising costs, and price inflation.**

As part of this offer:

- We provide free, supervised breakfast to all our children and young people
- Our academies offer a warm space for secondary and sixth form learners to access charging points and wi-fi provision to support independent learning
- Revision resources are provided to all Year 6 and 11 learners prior to their public examinations
- We have supported learners with perfect uniform
- Food parcels and hygiene products have been distributed to families with support from external providers.
- We have tackled digital poverty with devices and data access
- Various cultural capital experiences have been provided for free to our learners
- We continue to fundraise for University Hospitals Birmingham (UHB) Charity
- We have FREE data sim cards for any family which requires it. Please contact your academy.

If you require additional support, please do not hesitate to contact the academy office who can assist you.





**Erdington Hall Primary School**  
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

## Visitors and Visits

Erdington Hall learners have been venturing around the Midlands. Our Year 3 learners performed at the Hippodrome, our Year 2 learners climbed the mighty hill to Tamworth Castle and our Year 4 learners took their beautiful singing voices to Heartlands hospital. Our learners have also taken Christmas cards they have written to Heartlands bringing festive cheer and hope to those who will be spending time in hospital during the Christmas period.



## Parents and carers attend reading workshops

What a great turn out we had! Over 40 parents and carers came to read with their children at either 'Women, Words and Waffles' or 'Boys, Books and Biscuits' sessions. The children were able to enjoy sharing reading with their parents and carers.



## SEND Coffee Morning

With the support of our wonderful Trust Inclusion team, our new SENDCo Miss Benton ran an extremely successful SEND coffee morning, during which parents and carers met with a range of external agencies (as applicable to their child's needs). It was great to see parents and carers feeling informed, reassured and positive about the next steps for their child.

## Project Homework Exhibition

Each half term, our learners showcase the work they have done at home. This might be practical creations or a research-based project. The exhibition is always a very proud moment for our learners, parents, carers and teachers too.

## Whole school nativity and musical instrument performances

With our last few rehearsals ahead of us, our learners are very excited to share their talents with parents and carers at the end of this term's Nativity. From clarinets to drums, camels to Wise Men – we are all taking to the stage! The parents and carers of children in Year 4 enjoyed Djembe drumming, Year 5 played clarinets and Year 6 played the baronet and trumpet. Those who came along really enjoyed the children's performances.



**Pegasus Primary School**  
SUMMIT LEARNING TRUST

## Learning by Doing

At Pegasus we strongly believe that children learn best by doing; being active in their learning. We have been lucky to have had several hands-on history workshops over the autumn term. Each workshop has allowed our children to learn about a particular historical time period by handling artifacts and eating foods from that time. The children have worn costumes and been involved in several battles! The sessions ranged from Egyptians to the Tudors via a handy stop off with the Romans. These workshops have brought history alive!



Year 2 were learning about how castles have changed over time in history this term. They learnt about how William the Conqueror from France defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings and how he went on from this to build many castles across England including Warwick Castle where Year 2 went on their trip. The learners climbed the ramparts and towers and saw how people would have lived during medieval times and compared this to how castles are used as tourist attractions and places of work today.

## Taste-tested

Children have learnt about balanced meals as part of their Design and Technology curriculum this term. They taste-tested different combinations of protein, dairy, carbohydrates and vegetables to see which tasted best and used this knowledge to design and make a healthy food wrap. The children loved trying new foods and creating their own recipes!





## Curriculum Ambassadors

This term, The Oaklands took part in voting for subject ambassadors. These ambassadors represent their elected subject across the school, attending meetings, offering feedback and suggesting ideas for new whole school initiatives. This has allowed them to work alongside subject leaders to bring their subjects to life. During their most recent meetings, each team had a specific focus area. Our School Council discussed the importance of being a role model for others, whilst our Reading, Writing and Mathematics ambassadors looked at whole-school competitions and focus days. Our newly elected Junior PCSOs have also enjoyed working collaboratively with West Midlands Police to discuss safety in and outside of school. It has been fantastic to see the eagerness of every ambassador and to further empower our learners to improve our school.

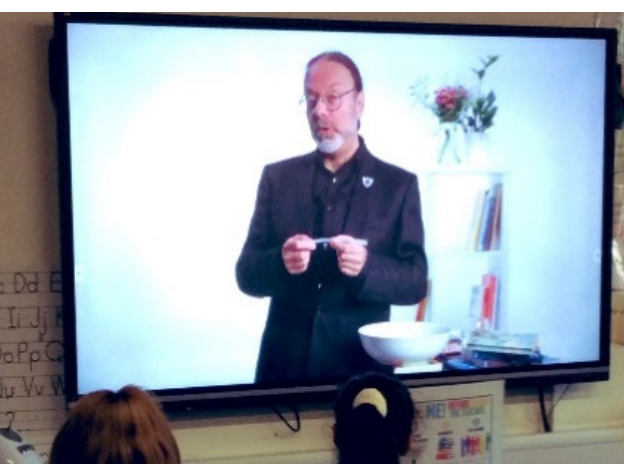


## Reading for Pleasure

Reading continues to be at the core of all our work at The Oaklands. This year we are working in partnership with Acocks Green Library, with all children attending the library this year and being given the opportunity to sign up for a library card. Within school, every class has spent time designing an engaging reading corner, with children taking part in 'book talk' to discuss their reading preferences. Throughout the year, all of The Oaklands' children will attend author sessions. The first of these was attended by Year 5 and 6 who listened to S.F. Said discuss his journey as a writer. We are excited to be hosting 'Live Reading Lessons' for parents and carers during December, giving parents and carers the opportunity to see how we read at The Oaklands Primary School.



## Acocks Green Library



## Parent and Carer Partnerships

Over the past few weeks our school choir have been rehearsing ready to perform at Solihull Sixth Form College, Heartlands Hospital and in our own Christmas Carol Concert. The children have been working with Mrs Bate and Miss Linden at lunch times to rehearse. Last week our children travelled to Solihull Sixth Form College and performed alongside Bently Heath Choir in their Christmas Fair to raise money for University Birmingham Hospitals Charity. This week, our children have performed in the main entrance at Heartlands Hospital raising funds for University Hospitals Birmingham Charity.



## Early Years Nativity Performance

The youngest children at Yarnfield have been practising their acting, singing, dancing and reading in readiness for their Nativity performance. The children have also put their art skills to good use in order to make props and back drops for the performance. This year the children are singing a wide range of songs from classic traditional Christmas carols to more modern Disney songs. The children are excited to perform to their families next week!



## Yarnfield Radio

Yarnfield Radio's first broadcast has gone on air! Children in Year 4 and Year 5 have been working weekly to put together our very own Radio Station. Our learners have the opportunity to talk about Yarnfield weekly news, current events going on in the world, book recommendations, joke of the week and so much more. Our radio episodes will be shared with parents, families and the school community via Class Dojo and X (Twitter).





## Talks for Change

In September, we shone a spotlight on the mental health and wellbeing of our Key Stage 4 learners, with a visit by Danny Wilsher of the Talks for Change Company as part of their mission to provide 100 free mental health talks to secondary schools across the UK in 20 days, to impact 10,000 young lives. Danny is an award-winning mental health speaker and Founder of The Damaged Goods Company. He also appeared on Channel 4's 'The Piano'.

He delivered a very powerful presentation to our Key Stage 4 learners about mental health and the weight it carries, especially when not addressed or talked about. Danny talked about his issues with depression, anxiety and self-harm and how he overcame adversity.

Danny then paid an impromptu afternoon visit to our Learning Support Unit, where he engaged with some of our most vulnerable learners, who enjoyed his visit immeasurably. All of our learners loved hosting Danny in school and took a lot away from the very moving and informative session.



### October Achievement Events

During October, the achievement team hosted some excellent events, attended by almost all of our parents and carers:

- The Year 10 revision event, where every Year 10 learner, was presented with a book bag containing revision guides for each of their subjects.
- The Year 7 settling in event, where Year 7 parents and carers got to meet with their child's form tutor to discuss their transition into our academy.
- The Year 11 examination preparation event at which we gave our Year 11 learners a pack containing highlighters, coloured writing pens, revision flash cards, a water bottle for their upcoming mock exams and a chocolate bar for some self-care! Mr. Saeed gave an excellent presentation on revision techniques and tips.
- Prior to half term, our Year 11 learners were then treated to a breakfast to thank them for all their hard work and commitment to attending half term school.

## Workshops

It was a privilege this term to run several events to enhance our learners personal development, in the lead up to Armistice Day. All of our Year 8 learners participated in a Royal Navy STEM workshop and our Year 9s in an Army Life Skills workshop.



## Remembrance in the Community

On November 10th, we held our annual whole school and community remembrance event, to respect those who lost their lives during conflict. We were joined by representatives from Yardley Boys Brigade, St Thomas' Church as well as younger learners from Yardley School and Blakenhale School. Our guest of honour was Deputy Lieutenant Anita Bhalla OBE who has had a long media career with the BBC, including setting up their Asian Network and was also named Brummie of the Year in 2019.



Our Principal, Jason Bridges, and colleagues Ms. Ellgood, Ms. McGachie and Mr. Mitchell along with 25 of our learners attended the community Remembrance parade in Yardley on Sunday 13th November. It was really important to take a group of learners to attend this community event.



We are anticipating some other exciting events at the end of this term, namely the production of Bugsy Malone on 20th and 21st December. Rehearsals are underway and this promises to be an event not to be missed. We are also looking forward to inviting local primary schools to a dress rehearsal to watch our fabulous learners and music and drama departments in action.





## Reading Intervention Event

On 15th November, we hosted our launch event for our Literacy and Reading Intervention Programme. Learners enjoyed an evening of poetry and performance from top local spoken word artists. Birmingham-based Ryan Dre Sinclair, Kohinoor Yasmin and Abda Khan all gave inspiring performances of their latest works including 'Paper People' and 'A love letter to the dead poets' at the event, which was aimed at boosting literacy and developing a life-long love of reading.

Also speaking at the event were Amy Burge, from the University of Birmingham, who gave a presentation on 'Muslim Women's Popular Fiction'; and Louisa Farrow, from BEP and an English Hub Literacy Specialist, who spoke about the importance of reading in and out of school.

The event, which included parents and carers, launched a literacy programme for learners in Years 7 to 10, which will offer selected children two specialist reading sessions each week. During the sessions, learners will work in small groups and one-to-one with a qualified teacher on exercises designed to help them read more fluently, develop reading stamina, build vocabulary, and improve writing.

**Uzma Kausar, Assistant Principal and programme lead said,** *"This is a very personal and important project for me, and we truly believe that this will have a great impact on our learners, as well as foster their sense of enjoyment. Having grown up in inner-city Birmingham myself from a working-class family, I know the struggles of not having books at my fingertips, but also the importance and value of reading great books that have stuck with me into my adult life. Our hope is that this programme nurtures the same love of reading for our learners."*



## Mega Maths

We are thrilled to announce a remarkable achievement within our learning community – our dedicated learners have collectively completed an astounding 877,174 Mathematics questions!

This impressive accomplishment not only reflects the commitment and diligence of our learners but also highlights the efficacy of Sparx Maths. As a collective, our learners have completed over 10,000 hours of personalised learning, which is an incredible feat.

The journey to this milestone has been a testament to the hard work and perseverance of each learner. Whether mastering basic arithmetic or delving into advanced concepts, every maths question completed represents a step forward in their educational journey. Additionally, this year so far, 419 learners have improved at their times tables in addition to their wider learning. We are very proud of all our learners' achievements.

## Geography Field Trips

In a testament to the commitment to academic excellence and hands-on learning, in November, our Year 11 learners undertook a challenging yet rewarding river fieldwork as part of their GCSE requirements. The practical application of classroom knowledge proved to be an invaluable experience, not only deepening their understanding of geographical concepts but also honing essential skills for future academic and professional pursuits. We are hopeful that our Year 10 learners will follow suit in their river studies at the end of the year.

Our Year 7 learners also carried out their human fieldwork in Birmingham city centre, exploring the successes of regeneration around our local area. The fieldwork fostered a collaborative learning environment, with learners working in small groups to conduct data collection and share observations. It was a successful and rewarding day for everyone involved.



## Christmas Card Success

We are delighted that a Ninestiles learner won the whole Summit Learning Trust Christmas card competition again this year! Congratulations to Zaina Zamrud in Year 10 for her winning robin design.





## Lion King Theatre Trip



On Wednesday 6th September, Miss Prentice, Mr Francis and Mrs Sheldon took 30 learners to watch 'The Lion King' at Hippodrome, Birmingham. Learners particularly enjoyed the costumes because they were very unique and bright: not only could you see the faces but when they moved a certain way, they became the character they were playing with an added mask. The acting, singing and dancing skills of the performers were amazing.

It was fantastic to see the characters of the production coming into the audience and engaging with the audience to add to the enjoyment and immerse the audience into the story even further. For some of these learners, this was their first time at a theatre, and we are very proud and fortunate to provide opportunities to learners with some of their first experiences within the Performing Arts industry.

## Visit to Keble College

14 Lyndon learners were invited to Keble College as part of their outreach programme for a taster day. They experienced a day in the life of an Oxford University learner, had a tour of the college, and a tour of Oxford. Learners enjoyed their lunch in the Great Hall and learned about the history of Keble College and how graduates of Oxford flourish after leaving and the variety of career paths that are open to them. They have returned full of determination to focus on Year 11 examinations and what college courses await them next year.



## T4U Showbox Appeal

The Lyndon School community demonstrated its altruism and compassion this year as we took part in our annual shoebox appeal for the charity T4U. Our learners, their families and the wider community all worked together to make up shoeboxes that are being taken to displaced people in eastern Europe, many of whom have no homes due to the war in Ukraine.

Thanks to the generosity of the whole Lyndon School community, we sent 210 boxes this year, full of lovely things to brighten someone's Christmas. The boxes were collected by Mrs. Redpath, a former teaching assistant at the school, and a representative from the charity. We look forward to working together on making boxes for those in need next year.



## Remembrance Ceremony

Our Remembrance ceremony was centred around honouring those who serve, promoting understanding and tolerance of others, and humanitarian care for all affected by conflict. This year, we focused our ceremony on the contributions of those of the Windrush generation, as that was national theme for this year (as suggested by our Royal British Legion); however, we made reference to all who practise public service and to all who keep us safe, from all religious backgrounds, ethnicities and nationalities. We ended the ceremony with a reminder to our learners about compassion and respect, as well as guidance for our learners to seek understanding rather than division, in line with our school virtues, their rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the fundamental British values.



## HS2 Stem Day

50 learners participated in a HS2 STEM Day at Lyndon School in October. HS2 will impact our local area significantly over the coming years and become a major employer in the area. The day included sessions explored an introduction to engineering, team building activities and activities to develop creativity. Careers advice was given, which enhanced learners' understanding of the jobs available to them in the STEM industry.

Most of the morning focused on building a railway for the future and planning ways in which this could be completed sustainably, an integral part of Summit Learning Trust's vision. Learners also had to predict what stations will look like in 2050 and they were encouraged to speculate on life in the future, as they considered AI technology and robotics. The afternoon allowed learners to collaborate on a bridge building exercise, which could support a weight. This year's winning design held 5kg - a fantastic achievement. All learners collaborated well as a group and used their resilience, curiosity and resourcefulness to overcome many obstacles.



## Year 10 Masterclass Programme

A group of dedicated Year 10 learners have been working with the Royal Institute and making fantastic progress as young leaders planning an delivering the masterclass programme to primary school children visiting Lyndon School. They have been creative and imaginative in designing their engaging lessons.

Currently, they have been delivering sessions on lava lamps, rockets and elephants' toothpaste. Before each session, these learners lead activities in the Key Stage Three STEM club that runs every Monday here at Lyndon School to practise, refine and strengthen their lessons for our visiting primary learners.

The primary school children from our local area will participate in a total of seven masterclasses. It is our pleasure to welcome children from Ulverley and Olton Primary and we believe this experience will help these learners develop their curiosity and will help them with their transition to secondary school.





## Team Gambia 2023

Adventurous learners from Solihull Sixth Form College have just returned from a life-enhancing trip to The Gambia, having raised over £13,500 this year for a school in the West African country. It was the eighth occasion that our College has taken learners out to the country and more than £73,500 has been raised in that time.

A group of 25 learners joined the College's Team Gambia project back in February and since then have been fundraising for the Abuko Nursery and Lower Basic School, near Serrakunda. They had a target to raise £400 each and through cake sales, car boot sales, charity quizzes, tea parties and sponsored walks, many exceeded that goal. Their efforts culminated in a week-long trip to The Gambia in mid-November, where they got to see how the money they have been raising is being put to use.

Whilst in The Gambia, the learners spent every morning at the school and taught the children (aged 4 to 6) in small groups. Many of the activities that our young people undertook with the children were active and visual, such as singing, craftwork, word and picture matching and there were lots of outdoor fun and games too.

**Year 13 learner Hana Mian commented:** "Working in the school was my favourite experience on the trip. I have never felt that my time was being so well spent as when we were doing activities with the kids."

**Fellow learner Luke Scudamore said:** "I really enjoyed the friendliness and how direct the locals were in The Gambia. I learnt patience and understanding from working with the children, as well as developing time management skills."

Solihull Sixth Form College joined this venture, started by Hamstead Hall School in Handsworth Wood, in 2013. The nursery school now comprises of 8 classrooms with almost 300 children benefitting from the facilities. In 2021 the nursery school was officially handed over to the Gambian Education department which ensures the sustainability of the project.

**Vice Principal Janice Hamilton commented:** "It was fantastic to take a new group of learners out to The Gambia. We had to put the trip on hold during the pandemic, but it was great to be back and to see the school and the children thriving. I'm proud of the work we have done over the years and every trip is a rewarding experience. It's a fantastic opportunity for our young people to experience another culture and help children who have not had the same life chances they have been fortunate to have. They develop valuable team-work and leadership skills from being part of this project and I see how they grow in confidence, whilst also really helping the children at the school.

"This trip saw furniture purchased for three classrooms, furniture repaired for three more classrooms, a brand-new printer provided, first aid and sports equipment sourced and money left to repaint the perimeter walls. The learners also brought with them 20 laptops donated by our Summit Learning Trust and a mountain of donated teaching resources and reading glasses."



## Biology, Chemistry and Maths Learners Stretched

Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics learners at the College have been stretching their learning well beyond the A level syllabus this term, with a series of exciting opportunities.

Chemistry learners took part in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, with 28 Year 12 learners sitting the hugely challenging 90-minute paper. Of those who participated, 13 achieved the Copper certificate and 4 reached the Silver standard. Set by a team of university chemists, the competition aims to encourage Year 12 learners to think about science in the way undergraduate students need to at university.

**Chemistry Curriculum Leader Simon Windsor commented:** "Congratulations are due to all our learners who took on the extremely difficult Cambridge Chemistry Challenge. It was entirely voluntary for the learners to attempt this competition and it involves very advanced Chemistry, beyond what is taught at A level. These are learners with ambitions to continue their science studies at university and the experience will stand them in good stead for their A level examinations this summer and for their progression onto Higher Education."

Gifted Mathematicians and Further Maths learners also took on a similar challenge, when they sat the Senior Mathematical Challenge, a 90-minute multiple-choice test. Open to young mathematicians across the United Kingdom, the paper is designed to make learners think and includes questions that are accessible to most, while still challenging to those with more experience. 23 learners at the College received participation certificates, while another 20 achieved the Bronze standard in the Challenge. The Silver award was achieved by 11 young people, whilst the remaining five learners earned the prestigious Gold award.

**Scott Fisher, Curriculum Leader for Mathematics, commented:** "I'm proud of all the young people who took on the Senior Mathematical Challenge – 59 is the most we have ever had! This paper is great experience for our learners, especially if they have ambitions to continue their Mathematics studies at university."

Meanwhile, a select group of Biology learners have been accepted onto Aston University's Pathways Programmes this year and are looking forward to an exciting year of events that they hope will lead them on the path to a career in Medicine and Healthcare.

The Pathways Programme has been designed by Aston University to help learners develop knowledge and skills and give them an insight into university life. The 18-month programme will help our young people make informed choices about their university courses and future career paths. The programme of events includes a University Open Day, a tutoring programme and a Medicine Taster Day. There is also an NHS & Allied Professions Day taking place in February and a Summer School, interview preparation days and a Boot Camp.





# Spreading Christmas Cheer

Four Sixth Form learners from Solihull Sixth Form College, part of the Summit Learning Trust, went along to Fisher House on Monday 4th December to put up Christmas decorations for the families in residence and create a festive atmosphere throughout the house.

Fisher House, funded by Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity, offers a home away from home for injured military personnel, many of whom served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families to use while they are being treated at hospital. The purpose-built building is situated on the Queen Elizabeth Hospital site and is located within walking distance of the hospital. The house officially opened its doors on the 21st of June 2013 by HM King Charles while he was HRH The Prince of Wales.

The house is always decorated in the first week of December, as staff members there want it to be as welcoming as possible to the families who stay there for Christmas. Fisher House has 18 rooms and has hosted over 7000 families.

The learners were given a tour of the house before they got to decorating the big tree in the main foyer as well as the communal areas of the house. Fisher House staff members and residents were delighted with their efforts.

## Vince Green, CEO of Summit Learning Trust said:

*"I am extremely proud of the young people and colleagues from our Trust family who volunteered to support patients, their families and the staff team at Fisher House today. Fisher House supports so many brave members of our Armed Forces, and it was an honour for our people to be able to contribute positively in this way to the communities we serve, in line with our Trust's mission."*

## Charlotte Schofield, Director of Fundraising at University Hospitals Birmingham Charity said:

*"We were delighted to welcome learners from Solihull Sixth Form to help bring some Christmas joy to Fisher House this year. Being away from home over the Christmas period is incredibly hard and we are so grateful for the support we receive which helps us provide festive magic to our patients and their families to ensure they can still celebrate"*







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