



# The Link Academy Newsletter Christmas 2020

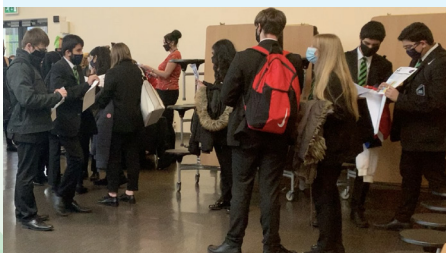


## Well Done Year 11

Article by Mrs Haggart

Year 11 have had a very busy half term and should be really proud of themselves. Throughout the term they have studied very hard and had the opportunity to start applying for colleges. On Friday 11 December they all collected their recent PPE results and experienced how the process will work in the summer. There have been some huge success stories and all learners can now use this information as a springboard to make continued improvements.

Well done Year 11 and keep up the good work! Remember to match your maths and English and continue to DREAM BIG.



## Commitments

Article by Mrs Marshall

Commitments is an exciting opportunity created by Dudley Academy Trust to encourage learners to participate and engage with a wide range of opportunities that build on skills gained in lessons. The commitments wheel which is located in the student planner, has a range of tasks that are designed to build social skills, confidence and broaden learners knowledge of the world around them.

Commitments rewards learners for 'going the extra mile' above their classroom studies. This term the following learners have been rewarded for their outstanding participation in the commitments programme:

**Lily Kettering Asson 7KS**

**Mehak Khan 8ML**

**Faye Yardley, Ruby Sampson, Makayla Malcolm 10CC**

Congratulations to these learners.

Next term we will be offering a range of activities to enable learners to sign off their commitments.

## Message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers,

It's been such a difficult term in so many ways, but my overarching feeling is a sense of such pride in our Academy and how our learners and staff have risen to the challenge. One of our key values is **respecting each other and our world** and I can genuinely say that our learners have supported each other brilliantly this term. Self-isolating staff have been teaching live lessons on Microsoft TEAMS from their own homes! Learners joining in live lessons during their own self isolation have been sending in high quality distance learning work! Young people have been staying safe in our academy by respecting their year group zones and by wearing face masks in communal spaces. **Thank you** for your support which has allowed us to keep our Academy open for the whole term.

Our team spirit never ceases to amaze me, we've seen more food bank donations than ever before and learners reaching out by letters to the elderly in our local care homes. Young leaders are re-working on our curriculum to integrate cultural awareness in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement, pledging to break down barriers for mental health awareness and pushing themselves academically to exceed their target grades. It's nearly two years since I started as Principal here at The Link and what a two years it has been! We've made exceptional progress even in the face of adversity and have secured more first choices from Year 6 learners than we have in the last 5 years. **Team Link** are dreaming big and we are excited to see what 2021 will bring. I wish you and your families a safe and happy festive period!

Kind regards

Mrs Edwards-Morgan  
Principal

## Christmas Food Bank



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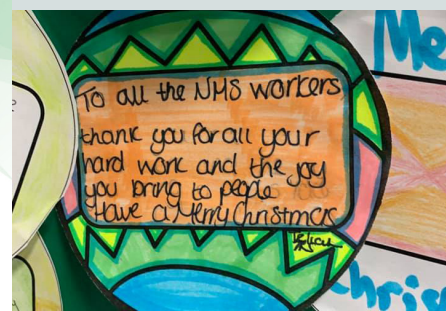




## The Link Academy Christmas Wish Tree

Article by Mrs Curlett

Pupils were asked to write a Christmas wish for an individual, group, or everyone. Student Ambassadors have decorated our wish tree this week by adding Christmas bauble messages containing lovely messages from our pupils.



## Food Technology

Article by Mrs Haywood

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Food Tech. Year 10 GCSE pupils made festive Yule Logs as part of their final practical assessment for their GCSE Food Preparation and

Nutrition course. Decorations were also made in house by the Product Design department! Outstanding progress was made by everyone. Well done Year 10. A fantastic end to a challenging term.

Happy Christmas from the Technology Team.





# POETRY BY HEART

## Poetry by Heart Competition

Article by Mrs Marshall

The link academy are proud to announce we are entering the national poetry competition 'Poetry by Heart'. This competition challenges learners to learn and recite a poem in front of an audience. We are holding an in school competition on Wednesday 27 January. Finalists selected from this competition will have the opportunity to compete for a place in the national final in London.

All learners can enter this competition. The benefits of taking part include;

- An Opportunity to step out of your comfort zone.
- Build your self confidence.
- Learn valuable public speaking and performance skills.
- Discover the world of poetry in a new way.
- Improve your memory.
- Learn a poem that you can keep for life!

You can also sign off three commitments for taking part in this competition.

If you require any more information please contact Mrs Marshall.



## WEDUC Parent App

Have you signed up for WEDUC yet, our new and effective way of communicating with parents and carers?

If not please let us know via [info@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:info@thelinkacademy.org.uk) and we will resend your enrolment code to you.

We encourage you to download this app as the academy will be using it a lot more going forward and you will be able to see information regarding your child and also information about the Academy just by simply logging into the app. Also, all payments will be made via WEDUC, therefore, it is important that you do download this app. Details can be found below.

# weduc

## How to download & register your app

### ♥ Step 1. Download the Weduc app



### ♥ Step 2. Enrol using the enrolment code sent to you via email/letter

### ♥ Step 3. Confirm your email address & phone number on the app

### ♥ Step 4. Enter the pin sent to you via email/text

### ♥ Step 5. Create a password

### ♥ Step 6. Start using your app, now!

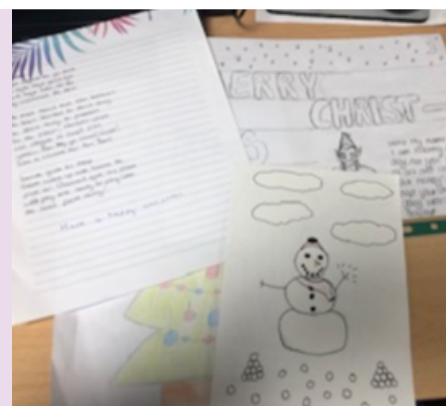
If you require any additional support, please contact your school

## Acts of Kindness

Article by Mrs Curlett

Learners have been working hard thinking about their acts of kindness. Well done to all learners that have made cards, poems, letters for our local care homes.

Link, the kindness elf has been visiting different forms each day of December, leaving an act of kindness message for learners. Please email Ms Curlett, to let her know any acts of kindness that you may have done in your local community.



[www.thelinkacademy.org.uk](http://www.thelinkacademy.org.uk)



[thelinkacademydudley](https://www.facebook.com/thelinkacademydudley)



[thelinkacademy](https://www.instagram.com/thelinkacademy)



[@TheLinkAcademy\\_](https://twitter.com/TheLinkAcademy_)

## Involving Parents in our School Life

Article by Mrs Worsey

### Dudley Adult and Learning Team Courses

**Functional Skills: English Level 1/2 and Maths Level 1/2** - Improve skills whilst working towards a nationally recognised qualification.

**Introduction to Care** - For anyone wishing to join the Care Sector.

**Preparing to Work in Schools** - Level 1. Ideal preparation for a support role in a school setting.

**Award in Mentoring Level 2** - Suitable for those wishing to work or volunteer in Schools, Further Education and Health sectors.

**Digital Skills Absolute Beginners** - For absolute beginners, learn how to access the internet safely and set up an email account.

**Digital Skills Entry Level 3 Award** - Designed to improve confidence in Digital Technology, job search and using the internet for everyday activities.

**Food Hygiene & Food Allergens** - Level 2 qualifications essential for those considering or already working in Catering and Hospitality sector.

**Inspiring Success into Employment** - This session will help develop a "positive mindset" by understanding the needs of employers and how you can utilise your transferable skills effectively.

**Steps to Success** - Ideal for those not in employment or looking for new opportunities, get skills to gain employment.

**Mental Health Awareness** - A health education workshop aiming to introduce strategies to manage stress.

**Design your own life** - Discover the starting point and plan a vision for the future in simple manageable steps.

**Self-Care for Worry & Anxiety** - Discover self-coping mechanisms to relax and restore mind and body.

**Resilience** - To increase resilience and feel stronger in dealing with day to day life.

**Motivation** - This will introduce ways of improving motivation and goal setting.

**Deaf Awareness** - Looking at diversity within the Deaf Community and includes the basics of sign language.

**Introduction to British Sign Language** - Gain an understanding of communicating with those from the deaf and hearing-impaired community by using basic British Sign Language.

**For more information email Glen. Ostins@dudley.gov.uk or call 01384 816496**

### Triple P parenting programme

To strengthen parenting skills and support the parent/child relationship. We continue to work with our parents/carers and offer support by delivering Triple P sessions. This can be with telephone consultations, Microsoft TEAMS or online Triple P. We offer online groups to complete the Teen Group sessions in place of the face to face course. Dates for the sessions available 2021 will be confirmed on return to school in January.

#### What is Triple P?

The three Ps in 'Triple P' stand for 'Positive Parenting Programme'.

Triple P is a parenting programme that does not tell you what to do or how to be a parent. It is more like a toolbox of ideas, where you choose the strategies you need

and the way you want to use them. It is all about making Triple P work for you.

### How do you do Triple P?

You can do Triple P anywhere, anytime—24/7 with the online programmes. Triple P Online is for parents of toddlers to tweens (under 12 years), and Teen Triple P Online is for parents of pre-teens and teenagers (10-16 years). Additional telephone support can be provided with modules or strategies if parents require. Parents can complete Triple P online using mobiles or laptops, to access an online code go to:

[www.dudleyparents.co.uk](http://www.dudleyparents.co.uk)

For more information go to:

[www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/care-and-health/children-and-family-care/early-help-for-children-and-families/dudley-parenting-service/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/care-and-health/children-and-family-care/early-help-for-children-and-families/dudley-parenting-service/)

[www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/triple-p/](http://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk/triple-p/)

### Early Help - What is Early Help?

Early help for children and families. Early Help is taking action early to provide support where problems are emerging for children, young people and their families, support may be provided at any point in a child or young person's life. If you are struggling or need help and advice you can speak to someone at your child's school or, contact one of the Family Centres. Check out Early Help and Family Information Service for more information at: [www3.dudley.gov.uk/Synergy/FSD/](http://www3.dudley.gov.uk/Synergy/FSD/)

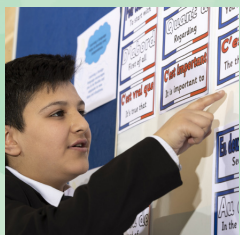
**For more information on any of the above contact: Mrs P Worsey, Parent Link Worker on 01384 814998 or [pworsey@thelinkacademy.org.uk](mailto:pworsey@thelinkacademy.org.uk)**

## Spring Term Dates 2021

**Term starts:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**Half term:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Term ends:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April



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## You have nowhere to sleep



Emergency Housing Team **0300 555 2345**

[www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-advice-information-and-support/homelessness/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-advice-information-and-support/homelessness/)

Shelter **0808 800 4444**

Loaves n Fishes resource centre at Provision House 80-81 High Street Dudley also provides items for the homeless. **0121 285 3970**  
[www.loavesnfishes.co.uk/](http://www.loavesnfishes.co.uk/)

If you have seen someone sleeping rough and would like to help contact Streetlink **0300 500 0914** – online form also available.



## Need support in rented accommodation

The Private Sector Housing team are a good place to get help, they can help get repairs done and give advice to tenants who have been served with notices to leave the tenancy. They can be contacted through Dudley Council Plus **0300 555 2345 /01384 812638** or the contact form on this page:

[www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-options/private-housing/private-tenants/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/housing/housing-options/private-housing/private-tenants/)

Helpful information can be found at - [www.gov.uk/private-renting/document-checks](http://www.gov.uk/private-renting/document-checks)

## You are experiencing difficulties with Drug and Alcohol addiction



If you are an adult contact Atlantic House, Dudley Road, Dudley DY9 8EL on **01384 426120**

If you are under 18 contact Here4YOUth 1 Castle Street, Dudley, DY1 1LA, [www.cranstoun.org/services/young-people/here4youth-dudley/](http://www.cranstoun.org/services/young-people/here4youth-dudley/) or contact them at [here4youth@cranstoun.org.uk](mailto:here4youth@cranstoun.org.uk), **01384 241440**

## You need someone to listen...

If you are having a difficult time and need someone to talk to or if you are worried about someone else contact The Samaritans who are here to listen 24 hours, 365 days a year **Call 116 123 for free**





**Sometimes we all need a lifeline...**

**Here is a list of local helpful places that will support you to make life easier, from people who really care**

### **You have no money to buy food**

**Black Country Foodbank** helps vulnerable individuals and families in crisis through the provision of 3 days emergency food supplies while a longer-term solution is developed.



**You must have a voucher or a code to be able to receive a food parcel at the distribution centres.** You can get foodbank vouchers from:

Dudley North Family Centre, Bayer St, Coseley, Bilston WV14 9DS **01384 813096**

Dudley Central Family Centre, Selborne Road, DY2 8LJ **01384 812 440**

Brierley Hill Family Centre, Parkes Street, DY5 3DY **01384 813322**

Stourbridge Family Centre, Forge Road, DY8 1XF **01384 818780**

Halesowen Family Centre, Lye By-Pass, DY9 8HT **01384 813954**

Dudley Council Plus 259 Castle St, Dudley DY1 1LQ **0300 555 2345**

**There are a number of distribution centres in Dudley Central where you can donate or exchange your voucher for a food parcel.**

Visit [www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/locations/](http://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/locations/) to find the nearest places you can collect foodbank parcels from or call **01384 671250** to talk to someone who can help.

### **You are suffering hardship due to Covid-19**

**Covid Winter Grant could help** - If you are struggling with food or fuel bills as a result of Covid you can call the Covid Helpline number on **0300 330 2152** available from Monday to Friday between 9.30am and 12.30pm for help and support through the Winter Grant.

You may be entitled to a one off £300 payment for food or fuel if Covid has seriously affected your income or financial situation visit

[www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/emergencies/coronavirus/covid-19-emergency-assistance-grant/](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/council-community/emergencies/coronavirus/covid-19-emergency-assistance-grant/) or call **03005552345**

You can stay informed and find out more about local advice and information by visiting [www.dudleyconnect.com/need-a-lifeline/](http://www.dudleyconnect.com/need-a-lifeline/)

