16th November 2026 | Issue 21

Liberty College NEWSLETTER

TERM 1

Term Rundown

Welcome to Liberty College's first newsletter of the academic year, where we celebrate some of the many achievements, experiences and memorable moments from Term 1.

It has been a fantastic start to the year and our learners have settled back into college life brilliantly. Across the college, learners have embraced new challenges, developed their independence and enjoyed a wide range of enriching experiences both in and out of the classroom.

This term has been packed with exciting trips and educational visits. Learners have tested their teamwork and resilience on assault courses, explored wildlife from around the world at Wingham Wildlife Park and enjoyed fun-filled outings to mini golf and ten-pin bowling. They have also taken part in cultural and historical visits, including trips to The Turner Contemporary, Dover Port and the London Dungeons, helping to bring learning to life and broaden their understanding of the world around them. For those seeking adventure, tobogganing at Chatham Ski Centre proved a particular highlight.

Back at college, learners have been developing valuable practical and vocational skills. Our Hairdressing & Beauty Group have continued their partnership with Head Turners Salon, giving them the opportunity to practise styling techniques in a professional setting and build confidence within the industry. The whole college also enjoyed a visit to our farm, where learners got into the Halloween spirit by carving pumpkins and spending time outdoors.

Preparing learners for their future remains a key focus at Liberty College. Throughout the term, our Careers Advisers from CXK have met with learners to provide personalised support, careers guidance and advice on employment opportunities, further education and future pathways. These sessions are helping learners make informed decisions and build the skills and confidence needed for their next steps.

As you will see throughout this newsletter, Term 1 has been filled with exciting opportunities, personal achievements and plenty of reasons to celebrate. We are incredibly proud of all that our learners have accomplished so far and look forward to sharing even more successes as the year progresses.

Read on to discover the fantastic activities, events and accomplishments that have made this such a positive and successful start to the year.

Congratulations Olly

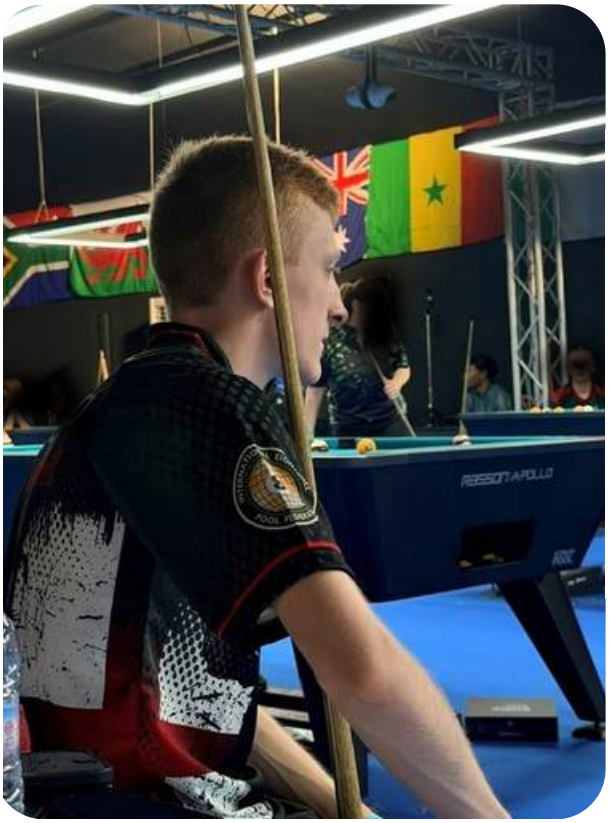




ENGLISH POOL ASSOCIATION
Established 1978

English Pool Association





Our learner, **Olly**, has recently been to Morocco where he and his teammates represented England in the 2026, Under 23s World Pool Championships. The 4-man team competed for 12 days, which culminated with an impressive 8-6 victory over South Africa, making Olly and his team the 2026 World Champions,

Olly also went through to the last 16 players in the Under 23 singles competition and the last 16 in the Masters Singles.

Congratulations Olly, on your amazing achievement.

THE IEPF
WORLD 8-BALL POOL
CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

Group Trips

Animal Care Groups

















Liberty's brand new **Animal Care Groups**, The Quackers and The Ravens, both had a very enjoyable day at Wingham Wildlife Park this term despite the poor weather.

The learners enjoyed seeing the variety of animals on show including giraffes, tigers, red pandas and meerkats.

Both groups enjoyed listening to a wide range of talks given by the keepers, finding them very informative and have taken away some great facts.

A firm favourite were the chimpanzees who put on a lively show where one of the youngsters was very entertaining. Another enjoyable experience was feeding the rainbow lorikeets from pots of nectar. This enabled the learners to gain some hands-on experience by getting really close to the birds and, for some, to face their fears.

The day was led by our Animal Care Tutor, Megan, who was previously Wingham Wildlife Park's Head of Mammals. She was able to give the groups lots of history about the animals and the park as well as extra fun facts.

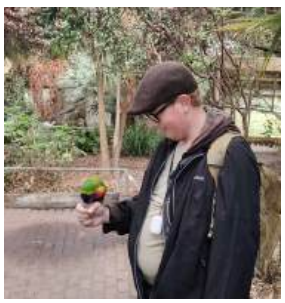
















Group Trips









Motor Vehicle Group

Our **Level 1 Motor Vehicle Group** visited Liberty Farm where they met our sheep and goats.

After they left the farm, the group went mountain biking at Betteshanger bike track where a staff member unexpectedly stacked it, twice!

Despite getting lost cycling around Betteshanger and being covered in mud, the group had a great day out and also celebrated Jacks 18th birthday.

Sports & Fitness Group

Our **Sports & Fitness Group** had an action-packed term, enjoying a range of exciting activities and adventures. One highlight was a visit to Flip Out in Ashford, where they challenged themselves across a variety of fun attractions.

The group also took on the Boonies Obstacle Course at Betteshanger Park, putting their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test. Despite getting soaked on the water slide, they had plenty of laughs throughout the day.









It was a fantastic experience for everyone involved and a great opportunity for learners to build confidence, stay active and have fun together.

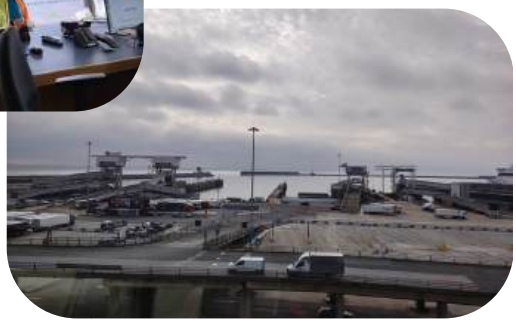
Group Trips

Travel & Tourism Group









Our **Travel & Tourism Group** were lucky enough to be given a tour of Dover Port's Operations Centre and were able to visit the viewing platform.

Jenny from The Dover Port Authority welcomed the group and they were able to meet various staff members and had the opportunity to ask many different questions.

This was a valuable insight into the day to day operations of the Port and provided the group with networking opportunities and inspiration for alternative career routes.

Employability - Green Group

The **Lil Shrek's Castle, Employability Green Group** went to Toby Carvery for lunch this term as part of their customer service unit where they were able to see a customer service team in action.

They group had mixed reviews about the quality of the food but were able to review the customer service they received. The entire group thought the waiting staff were attentive and chefs gave everyone a generous portion of roast meat.



Animal Care Group







The **Quackers, Animal Care Group** had a fun afternoon bowling at Hollywood Bowl in Westwood Cross this term.

The games were very competitive showing some excellent bowling skills from the learners as well as great team bonding. The end results were very close and fun was had by everyone. As well as bowling, they also had a few games of pool and some fun in the arcades.

Group Trips









Employability - Yellow Group

Our **Yellow Employability Group - The Bananas** visited Margate seafront to take photographs for one of their course units. They took the bus as part of their travel training and then visited the Old Kent Market where they enjoyed milkshakes.



Group Updates

Hospitality & Catering Group

Liberty's **Hospitality & Catering Group** now have official name badges and aprons for practical sessions, giving them a feel for the workplace.

They had a milkshake making session this term, where they spent the morning learning the importance of being able to measure ingredients accurately to make delicious milkshakes. The group followed this up by writing a review on what they would change and why.









Group Updates

Animal Care Groups







Our new **Animal Care Groups** first term at the Liberty Farm has been a successful one. The learners have settled in extremely well to their new college location, enjoying being outside and learning in the countryside. They have formed close friendships with their peers and with the incredible animals that the farm has to offer.



The animals at the farm consist of our four female sheep, Pluto, Pocahontas, Flounder and Bambi, as well as our four female goats: Daisy, Dottie, Star and Pudding. A favourite with all the learners were the newest residents to join Team Liberty, three beautiful kittens called Maui, Moana and Te Fiti.





We have also been making the most of being right next to the beautiful Kent Downs and going on some wonderful walks. These were where some other furry residents joined us. Liberty's very own therapy dogs, Stitch, Disney and Libby the Pomeranians. Even Buddy the retired Rottweiler has tagged along, he is definitely a firm favourite of our learners.





Travel & Tourism Group

This term, our **Travel and Tourism Group** practised their cooking skills and learned about Chinese cuisine by making spring rolls. The whole group enjoyed them.





Group Updates

Our **Life Skills, Blue Group** ended fresher's week by making some chocolate chip cookies.

After writing their shopping list, they walked to Home Bargains to buy the ingredients. They then practised their skills by measuring out ingredients to each make their own tray of cookies.







Blue Group

They have had a brilliant first term getting to know each other and building new friendships. As well as cookie making, the group have enjoyed lots of fun activities, including ten pin bowling and taking part in travel training where they took the bus to Margate.

We are proud of how much confidence and independence everyone has shown and look forward to another exciting term ahead! 🌟

Hospitality & Catering Group

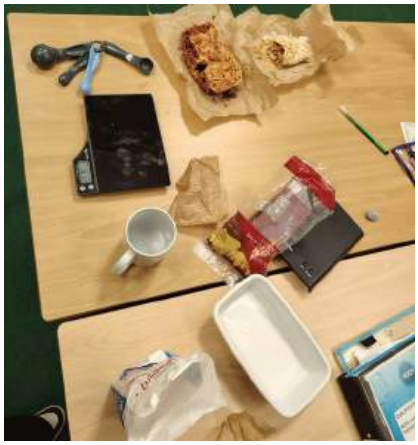
Our **Hospitality and Catering Group** started the term by conducting an experiment by making honeycomb.

They attempted to monitor the different cooking stages to get the perfect honeycomb, even creating one covered in chocolate.





Learners taste tasted their honeycomb creations to find the best one.







Group Updates









Our **Land Based Employability Group** have been working exceptionally hard at the allotment this term, helping to clear, maintain and reset the growing beds in preparation for the next season. Learners have developed their horticultural skills . while enjoying the final weeks of warmer weather, with the allotment still buzzing with wildlife and activity. From birds and insects to the changing colours of autumn, there has been plenty to observe and enjoy while working outdoors.



The group were also able to harvest the last of this year's fresh produce, which was given to the Grub Hub. The vegetables and herbs collected have since been used to create a variety of delicious sauces and freshly prepared dishes, demonstrating the journey from plot to plate and highlighting the value of sustainable food production.





In addition, learners showed great creativity by helping to design and build "Jeff Row" the Scarecrow, who has become a fantastic addition to our Halloween pumpkin carving celebrations at our Liberty Farm. The project encouraged teamwork, problem-solving and creativity, while adding a fun seasonal feature for everyone to enjoy







The **Horticulture & Gardening Group** have also been working tirelessly at the farm as they settle into and develop their new learning environment. Learners have taken an active role in preparing their classroom space and have begun planning and designing a brand-new horticultural area, carefully considering how the space can best be used for future growing projects and outdoor learning opportunities.



The group have also been given an exciting responsibility for later in the term. At the end of November, they will be hosting a special tree-planting event, where the farm will receive 420 new trees. Learners will play a key role in organising, planning, and participating in the planting process, helping to improve the local environment while creating a lasting legacy for future learners and visitors to the farm.



Alongside these projects, they have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to prepare for the farm's Halloween celebrations. From helping organise activities and displays to supporting the setup of seasonal events, learners have shown excellent teamwork, enthusiasm, and commitment in ensuring the festivities are a success.





Both groups should be extremely proud of their efforts this term. Their hard work, creativity and dedication have made a positive impact across the allotment and farm and we look forward to seeing what they achieve in the months ahead.





Group Updates

Liberty Farm Pumpkin Carving 2026





This year, all our learners had the opportunity to join in the Halloween festivities at the Liberty Farm where they were able to see the animals and carve their pumpkins.

Well done to everyone for this year's amazing designs!





























Halloween









Animal Care





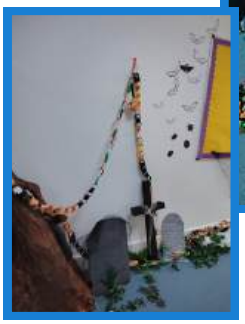






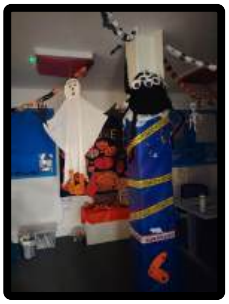


The Studio











Pink Group









This winners of this year's Halloween Classroom Decorating Competition were **Pink Group and Animal Care**!

The judges said it was an incredibly tough decision because every classroom looked fantastic.

The whole college was full of Halloween spirit, with staff and learners putting in a great effort to dress up and create some truly spooky displays.

Our incredible Catering Team, Maria & Caroline, also make a spooky Halloween cake.



Well done to everyone who took part and helped make the college look amazing! 🎃👻



Green Group









Activity Day

Waffle Wednesday







Anita and **Tameika** spent Activity day making waffles with various toppings for our learners and staff to enjoy. All proceeds went towards raising money for the defibrillator that we want to buy for the college.

They managed to raise a grand total of £61.37



Our **Hair & Beauty Group** also held a raffle to raise money for our defibrillator fund. The prizes included a selection of beauty products that the learners had created during their classes this term.

The raffle was a great success and helped support an important cause while showcasing the group's creativity and skills.

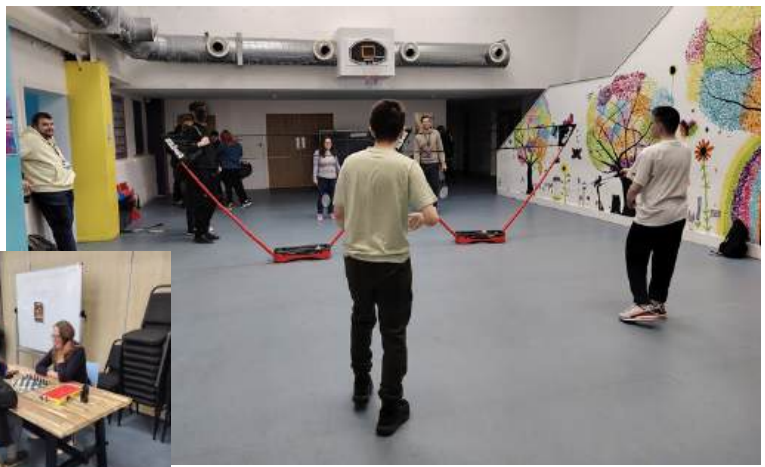


This year's Activity Day was packed with fun and exciting opportunities for our learners. Everyone had the chance to choose how they spent the day, with a range of activities on offer. Options included Disc Golf at Jackey Baker's Field in Ramsgate, board games, arts and crafts, badminton, Dungeons & Dragons as well as spending time at our allotment.

The day was a great success, with learners enjoying the opportunity to try new activities, develop their skills and spend time with friends.









Team Members of the Week



Date	Team Member	Reason
11/09/26	Aeryn	For taking on a new role and supporting with the transition of finance to Kylie.
11/09/26	Chris B	For going above and beyond all the time.
19/09/26	Leonie	For her positive work with a learner and covering the class.
19/09/26	Dave	For his incredible start to his new role.
22/09/26	Hannah	For her informative CPD training.
22/09/26	Ashley	For his fantastic 1:1 work with a learner.
02/10/26	Ben	For going above and beyond in all aspects of the role and remaining calm, professional and compassionate during an emergency.
02/10/26	Tameika	For consistently being proactive, learner focused and a valuable member of the team.
09/10/26	Megan	For her support with the learners at the farm and ensuring it is a calm, supportive environment. She has created a really nurturing environment.
16/10/26	Rebecca & Amy The Outreach Team	For helping the learners access the college.

Team Member of the Term



We have two Team Members of the Term: **Samuel** and **Heather**.



Samuel

Samuel for his outstanding work and dedication to setting up our new amazing Liberty Farm site.



Heather

Heather has made an outstanding contribution this term through her creativity and dedication, improving college marketing, successfully planning graduation and consistently supporting colleagues as a valued team player.

Learner of the Term Awards



The winner of the Learner of the Term Award will receive 1000 achievement points which can be exchanged for a £10 voucher.

Term 1's winner is:-

Leo D independently ran an extremely successful Dungeons & Dragons campaign for activity day. This included planning and preparation for the campaign in his own time, bringing in his own resources and managing a group of learners. He demonstrated an immense amount of resilience, confidence and problem solving skills and bought together a group of learners that are planning to continue the game outside of college. Leo is extremely courteous and always shows kindness to other learners.

Congratulations Leo!

The nominees for Term 1 are:-

Paige has shown great maturity and hard work this term, she is always actively engaged in every session and has an amazing attitude towards work. She has a positive presence in the classroom, is always respectful and polite and is an example to fellow learners.

Mac has shown great resilience this term and is planning ahead for his future career and working towards achieving his goals. He is now not only participating in group work but also taking the lead and giving advice to other learners, he has an all round great attitude!

Bethany's confidence and self-esteem has greatly improved this term. She always engages in class activities, is polite and is a delight in class.

Faith has shown great resilience and determination since starting at Liberty.

Brooke has shown resilience and her attendance has been consistent throughout the term.

Oska has been absolutely amazing this term, showing resilience and perseverance. This term he has developed a Halloween game using Scratch.

Sun has settled in really well at Liberty and has had an excellent start to the year. They have engaged in class trips and activities and participated in our recent activity day,

Shanna is excelling with her Functional Skills due to her motivation and determination, Her positive attitude is encouraging others in the class to 'step up' to her level. This term, Shanna's Hair & Beauty skills have become natural and more professional; she is an asset to Liberty and her class.

Marley - From the moment Marley started, he has been nothing but polite and respectful in his approach to college life. He has settled into Orange Room so well, becoming a valued member of the group and consistently demonstrates a lovely attitude towards both staff and his peers. He has made fantastic progress since joining us and this term he independently created a stop-motion Halloween film showcasing his creativity, imagination and talent. He should be incredibly proud of what he achieved.

Teagan M has returned to Liberty this year with a brilliant attitude; she has been helpful, polite, willing to work and she has supported a new member of our class acting like a buddy.

Lillie - since attending the Liberty Skills Centre Lillie has shown determination and resilience, her confidence has also increased greatly.

Theo is always polite and respectful. He shows a real eagerness to progress in his learning and is an inspiration to the others in the group.

Work Experience



Our **Work Experience Team - WEX** have been out and about this term visiting prospective placements for our learners and promoting Liberty College.

Lucy & Nicola from the WEX team participated in the careers fair at Goldwyn School where they spoke with potential learners to Liberty College.



They also visited the VSK No Limits Conference where our learners had the opportunity to meet the celebrity Alfie Watts who was a winner from the television programme Race Across the World.

Alfie told an inspiring story about his life and the challenges he faced growing up. Our learners were also able to meet employers and other educational providers to look at what they would like to do when they leave college.

Attendance Trends



Term 1's attendance

This term, we had an amazing 37 learners achieving 100% attendance, equal to 19% of the college.

We also had 33 learners achieve between 90% and 99% and a further 13 achieve between 85% and 89%.

This is an incredible, whole college
12% improvement on the same period last year.

Congratulations to you all on this fantastic accomplishment.

To further champion our learner's resilience and attainment and to acknowledge that many reasons for absences are due to circumstances out of our learner's control, termly attendance points will now be awarded as follows:



100% = 1000 points
90-99% = 900 points
85-89% = 750 points
70-84% = 500 points

Liberty's New Staff



Samuel
Farm Manager



Laura
Wellbeing TA

It has been an exciting summer of growth at Liberty College, marked by the opening of Liberty Farm and the launch of our new Outreach Programme.



Kelli
Receptionist



Denisa
I.T. Tutor



Amy C
Outreach TA



Ashley
Teaching Assistant



Siobhan
Deputy Head



Megan
Animal Care Tutor



Kylie
Finance
Administrator

As our college community continues to grow, we are pleased to welcome 11 new staff members to the Liberty family.



Sallie
Animal Care TA





Rebecca B
Outreach Tutor

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Term 2 will end on Thursday 17th December 2026.

Term 3 will begin on Monday 4th January 2027

Please look out for emails and social media posts for information and updates about the upcoming academic year.