



# Liberty College

## NEWSLETTER

### TERM 4

## Term Rundown

Welcome back to Liberty College for Term 5!

In this term's newsletter, we're celebrating a range of fantastic achievements from both learners and staff along with a few exciting challenges they've set themselves for the weeks ahead.

Our Hospitality & Catering group have recently teamed up with Faversham Community Centre, where they've been busy preparing delicious meals for the local community.

This year's Disney trip has now been booked and prep workshops for learners will be starting this term. All learners who are going to Disney should attend these weekly sessions.

The Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award camping trip is also booked and the learners are busily preparing their equipment and planning activities.

Keep reading to see what been happening at Liberty College and to learn about all the exciting things that are still to come!

## Congratulations Olly

Earlier this year **Olly** attended the trials for the 2026 England Under 23's Pool Team.

The trails were held in March and after a gruelling process, Olly was successful and became one of five youngsters selected out of over 40 trialists.

He has now qualified for the 2026 England Team and has become a member of the England International Under 23's pool team.

We are are so proud of your achievement Olly!



# Kent Women in Business Awards 2026



The Kent Women in Business Awards celebrate women who are doing amazing work in business across Kent. The awards focus on leadership, new ideas and making a positive difference in the community.



This year's awards took place on 6<sup>th</sup> March at the Ashford International Hotel. Women from many different jobs and industries came together to celebrate success.

Liberty College is very proud to share that Michelle Smith, the Director of Liberty College, won two major awards:

**Winner – Education & Training Award**  
**Winner – Business Woman of the Year (Over 5 Years)**

Michelle was also named as a **Finalist for the Inspiring Leader of the Year Award.**

These awards recognise Michelle's hard work, strong leadership and dedication to supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Liberty College began 13 years ago as a small six-week course; Michelle taught the lessons herself, with her partner helping as a teaching assistant. At the start, they supported just 12 young people.

Today, Liberty College supports more than 200 students and continues to grow to help more young people who need support.

For Michelle, this work is very special.

"Working with children and young people is not just a job – it is a calling and I am proud & honoured to dedicate my life to making the world a better place for them."

These awards are not just about business. They celebrate the positive change Liberty College makes by helping young people build confidence, skills and a better future.

We are extremely proud of Michelle and everything she has achieved and are excited to see what the future holds for Michelle and Liberty College.



## Group Trips

### Employability - GeMs



The **GeMs** from our **Employability Ruby Group** had a great last day of Term 3; they made Easter sweet puffs and then went to Revolution Skate Park and Climbing Centre.

The group were impressed with **Memphis'** new personal best of 12.4 seconds and he is now on Revolution's top leader board for 16-20 year olds, **Theo** is not far off with 16.0 seconds. They supported each other to overcome their fear of heights; working as a team, planning and communicating the routes around the boulders so they could each achieve their personal best.



### Employability - Blue Huskies

The **Employability Blue Group** had a wonderful day monkeying around at Wingham Wildlife Park this term, the learners were very popular with the lorikeets!



### Employability - Pink Group



Natural  
History  
Museum

Our **Employability Pink Group** visited the Natural History Museum this term. The learners had a fantastic day, asking a variety of questions to expand their own knowledge.



# Faversham Community Centre

## Hospitality and Catering

Our **Hospitality & Catering Group** are working alongside the team from the Faversham Community Centre. While there, the learners have the opportunity to cook in a commercial kitchen and utilise skills they learned in their Level 2 Food Hygiene course.



The group have created some new recipes that have been taste tested by the local community, they have also helped to reduce food waste by using excess items from the community foodbank to bake treats that can be used at the centre. This term the learners have made bread pudding, they have also made food to order for the community activities including the Tea Dance and Pensioners' Big Lunch.

Vegetable Soup



Bread Pudding



Scones



# Group Updates



## Land Based Construction

Our **Land Based Construction Groups**, the **Task Terminators** and **Mushroom Masters**, have been working hard at the allotment to complete the planters and raised beds on Plot 54 in preparation for spring planting. We were fortunate to receive a generous donation of seeds from a local allotment holder which has allowed us to sow a much wider variety of crops than last year.

So far, both groups have planted a selection of winter vegetables, several varieties of tomatoes, peppers, chillies and mixed salad leaves. In addition, nine different varieties of potatoes have now been planted, ready for use in summer salads and autumn roasting. The learners have shown excellent teamwork and commitment throughout this project and Plot 54 is already looking promising for the growing season ahead.



## Employability - Orange & Ruby Group

This term, our **Orange and Ruby Employability Groups** visited the Liberty College allotment where they discussed the range of employment opportunities within the sector. The learners also enjoyed getting involved in some practical work whilst they were there.



# Group Updates

## Land Based Taster Group



Our **Land Based Construction Taster Group** teamed up with the **Land Based Group** and **Ana** to work on the new containers that Ana has built in the front garden of the college.

The Taster Group will be adding plants to these over the coming weeks.



## Life Skills - Summer Fruits

Our **Life Skills Group**, the **Summer Fruits** have been busy collecting a variety of items for our local RSPCA Centre; so far they have collected blankets and old towels to help keep animals warm, comfortable and safe.

As part of their learning, they have also been practising their laundry skills by washing and preparing all the donated items. The group will be delivering their collection to the RSPCA Centre next term.

The RSPCA - Thanet branch cares for and rehomes abandoned, unwanted and abused cats, dogs and small furries; if you have any items you can donate, please let the office know.



**RSPCA Kent**  
**Isle of Thanet Branch**  
Registered Charity No: 209365

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

Can you help?  
Please bring into purple room

We are collecting old towels and blankets to support the RSPCA Thanet Branch as part of our Pet Care unit.

Your donations will help keep animals safe, warm and comfortable.

Every contribution makes a difference!



## Group Updates



As part of our Employability Course, each learner completes a hands-on first aid unit led by our trainer Heather.

This term, it was the turn of our **Ruby** and **Green Groups** to complete their first aid training. The sessions introduce the learners to the fundamentals of first aid where they learn how to assess a situation, respond to minor injuries and how to act in an emergency.

This is a valuable skill as it equips the learners with knowledge that can be applied both in daily life and in unexpected situations, preparing them to respond calmly and effectively in real-life situations.

## Self Defence Workshop



### Our Sports & Fitness

and **Travel & Tourism Groups** joined up to participate in a self defence class this term. The interactive workshop supports the personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) aspect of the curriculum while also teaching the learners how to stay safe. The groups thoroughly enjoyed the physicality of the session.



# Creative Art Groups Exhibition



**LEARNER EXHIBITION**

CREATIVE ARTS LEARNERS FROM LIBERTY COLLEGE ARE HOSTING A MIXED MEDIA ART EXHIBITION

**MEET & GREET  
SAT 21  
3PM- 5PM**

**16-28 MARCH 2026**  
TURNER ROWE ART CENTRE  
19-21 Harbour Street, Ramsgate,  
Kent CT11 6HA

[WWW.TURNERROWEARTCENTRE.COM](http://WWW.TURNERROWEARTCENTRE.COM) | [WWW.LIBERTYGROUP.LTD.CO.UK](http://WWW.LIBERTYGROUP.LTD.CO.UK)



Our **Creative Arts** learners showcased their mixed media work at a seasonal exhibition at the Turner and Rowe Gallery in Ramsgate last month.

The exhibit contained the learners' final pieces from their mixed media unit. This unit encourages learners to step out of their comfort zones and try things that they may not have tried before.



# Liberty Staff Three Peaks Challenge



Scan to donate to the Liberty College Three Peaks Challenge.



This term, a team of Liberty College staff will be taking on the Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for our chosen charity and the Liberty College Duke of Edinburgh award. The challenge takes place on Sunday 24th May, when they will have 24 hours to complete the challenge. They will begin with a climb of Ben Nevis. Once completed, they will travel to Scafell Pike before aiming to complete the final climb of Snowdon.

Liberty College works closely with The Pumba Foundation charity based in South Africa. Through this partnership, we help provide essential resources, including education support, food provision and community development initiatives.

The team have set up a Go Fund Me page and kindly ask for donations of any size. All funds raised will be shared between supporting the Seven Fountains village and contributing towards DofE resources for students at Liberty College.

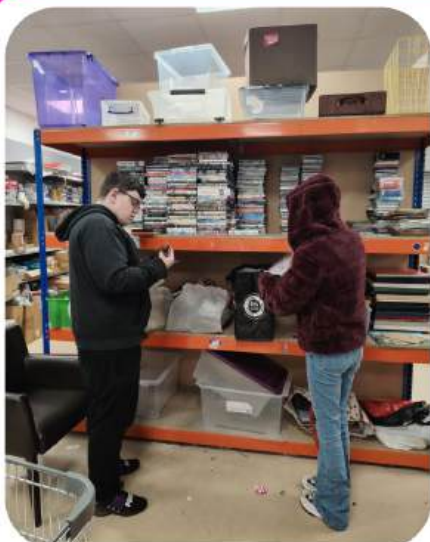
Thank you for your support in helping us make a positive difference both locally and internationally.

# Work Experience



## HEAD TURNERS

This term, the **Hair & Beauty Group** have been practising their skills at Head Turners salon, gaining hands-on experience and trying out new techniques.



**Dayton** and **Izzy** have embarked on work experience at the Cancer Research Charity shop, where they have been learning about how to restock the shop floor and quality check the donated items.

Well done to them both!



**Kent Libraries**

**Lucca** has embarked on his first ever work experience placement at Westgate Library this term. After overcoming his nerves, he has been amazing and has created his own book display on 'Computers and Programmes.'

**Clayton** has been attending work experience at April Lodge Guinea Pig Rescue every week this term.



He has been helping to care for the guinea pigs and has been handling them as well as cleaning their environment. His commitment to his placement is exemplary.

## THE MARGATE CAVES

**Cole** has been on a placement at Margate Caves where he has completed some fantastic work supporting with tours.



# Learner Correspondence

David Attenborough is grateful for your letter and is of course delighted to know that you enjoy his programmes.

Unfortunately he has been overwhelmed by the amount of mail he has received recently and hopes you will forgive him if he does not answer your letter or address your questions personally.

He nonetheless thanks you for writing

Last term, **Alex B** from our Land Based Construction Group wrote to Sir David Attenborough telling him how much he admires him and his work.

Alex was extremely pleased to receive a very prompt response from Sir David's team.



## 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 4's winner is:-

**Dayton** has recently passed his NOCN L2 which is a fantastic achievement. He has shared his plans for his future after Liberty with the team and has started work experience at a local charity shop. Outside of Liberty, Dayton has had success with his table tennis league and performed with his band at The Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury.

### The nominees for Term 4 are:-

**Jenson** is always kind and helpful with lovely manners. Each break time he helps Maria and Caroline by taking the tea and coffee out to the Grub Hub for the learners to use.

**Max W** is dedicated to his learning and is developing his hair and beauty skills with clear goals for what he would like to achieve. His maturity and positivity demonstrates healthy relationships within the college; he is a lovely friend, helping his peers with hair styling, teaching everyone the latest trends. He has shown excellent team work skills and demonstrates a professional attitude in class, treating the salon as a place of work.

**Damian** has demonstrated a significant and impressive shift in his attitude this term. He is polite, arrives on time and has made a real effort to minimise his phone use so he is able to stay focused on his work.

**Bradley S** has shown perseverance and resilience regarding his recent job applications. With the help and support of the work experience team he has persevered and gained the confidence to hand deliver his CV to potential employers. Bradley has showed maturity, thinking about his goals for next year and planning for his future after Liberty.

**Codey** has been nominated for the effort he has put into bettering himself and his attendance has improved greatly throughout the year. He has taken steps to complete extra learning during breaktimes and has become comfortable enough to ask for help in his classroom. Codey's attendance has improved greatly throughout the year.

# Team Members of the Week



Date	Team Member	Reason
27/01/26	Chris B	For hitting the ground running and making an immediate, positive impact.
27/01/26	The Cleaning Team	For your outstanding commitment to keeping our building spotless and shining.
06/03/26	Chloe	For all of your hard work and efforts behind the scenes working on Engage.
06/03/26	Kerry	For being proactive and supporting the team covering duties.
13/03/26	Neil	For stepping in to cover a lesson and for your support and flexibility.
13/03/26	Chris B	For creating a college-wide project that included and engaged everyone.
21/03/26	Adina	For organising the local councillor to visit regarding the road crossing.
21/03/26	Duke of Edinburgh Team	For going above and beyond in ensuring our DofE learners were able to attend their residential.
27/03/26	Lucy B	For your support at the Hub and your role in helping a learner gain employment.
27/03/26	Chloe	For your hard work in organising the Easter activity for the learners.
03/04/26	Luke B	For your excellent support at the Hub, your creativity in developing engaging project ideas and your dedicated one-to-one work and communication with parents/carers.
03/04/26	Tim	For your fantastic support on the team building day, your contributions to teaching sessions and your continued dedication to supporting learners.

# Team Member of the Term

The Team Member of the Term for Term 4 is **Ana**.

Ana has covered lessons at short notice and has provided on-to-one work experience support to learners across the college.



Ana



# Attendance Trends

## Term 4's attendance



This term we have 20 learners who have reached 100%, well done to **Ricky, Alex, Morgan, Alesha, Tasha, Bradley, Jako, Teagan, Jack R-H, Jake, Levi, Callum, Tonny, Adrian, Jensen, Andrew, Jack B, Jacob, Max M & Brandon.**

We also have another 36 learners who have attained between 85% and 99%.



**Congratulations to you all on this amazing accomplishment.**

Each learner will receive up to 1000 achievement points which can be exchanged for vouchers or a reward from the prize cabinet.

## Liberty's New Staff

### Liberty's Police Surgery

Our allocated officer, PC Jack, will be on site every couple of weeks and is available for anyone that would like to see him.

He will be in the Grub Hub, Hall or Chill Zone; the Zen Zone is also available for any more private conversations where a staff member will also sit with them to safeguard the learner and the officer.

PC Jack will be available between 12:30pm and 1:15pm on:-

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2026  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2026



Our Directors, Michelle and Jojo, have welcomed a new Executive Assistant to the team. Heather will be based at The Hub but will also be popping into The Skills Centre.



**Heather**  
Executive Assistant

## Upcoming Events and Reminders

### Disney Trip 2026

Prep sessions for learners attending the trip will be every Wednesday from 11:30-12:30pm.

### The Youth Participation Group meeting dates are:-

These are now as follows:-  
Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026



**Term 5 ends on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, Term 6 will begin on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026.**

Please look out for emails and posts on social media which give you information about the upcoming year.

