



WINTER 2025

The termly newsletter of **Novalis Trust**

**WMS goes the distance in county cycle challenge!**

# PEDAL POWER

**Cheers to  
30 years!  
Caroline's  
OT journey**



**Motivational Mondays**  
are the best start to the week

**All hands on deck** as  
Trust staff build teamwork at sea





# Welcome

This term has been one of new experiences, shared challenges and a wonderful sense of community across both of our Schools.

A visit from local MP Dr Simon Opher gave WMS pupils the chance to showcase their confidence and awareness of how politics shapes the world around them. Their thoughtful questions about local and national issues left a lasting impression.

Staff, too, embraced opportunities for growth, taking to the seas aboard Challenger 2, a 72-foot yacht operated by the Tall Ships Trust. The day provided a unique setting for teamwork, communication and problem-solving – all enjoyed with plenty of sea air and good humour.

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**‘The day provided a unique setting for teamwork, communication and problem-solving – all enjoyed with plenty of sea air and good humour.’**

WMS was also pleased to host Chelsea’s Story, an interactive theatre production exploring the importance of safe and respectful relationships. The performance

encouraged pupils to think carefully about personal boundaries, decision-making and how to look after themselves and others, leading to thoughtful discussions throughout the school.

Beyond the classroom, pupils have continued to challenge themselves through the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award and Cycle September – a county-wide initiative encouraging more people to get cycling. Both experiences have helped to build confidence, resilience and a strong sense of achievement through shared goals.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. On behalf of everyone at William Morris and Cotswold Chine Schools, we wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. We look forward to sharing more news in 2026.



**Gareth Parker**

Headteacher  
William Morris School

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## BON VOYAGE

### School leavers mark end of era with Paris trip

Five school leavers from Cotswold Chine School marked the end of an era with a fun-filled visit to Paris.

Catherine, Justin, Phoebe, Kaci and Lucy made the most of every moment of their trip to the French capital, accompanied by Dan Woodhead (Curriculum Enrichment Coordinator) and Becky Kent (Head of Sixth Form).

The group explored some of the city’s most iconic landmarks including Notre Dame Cathedral, the Louvre, the Olympic Flame and the impressive Arc de Triomphe.

There was also plenty of time for fun with a whole day spent at Disneyland Paris – the perfect way to celebrate the end of an era.

“It was such a privilege to finish off the students’ time at Cotswold Shine with this trip,” said Dan. “It was lovely to

see them all enjoying themselves, experiencing new things and making memories together that they’ll never forget. We wish Catherine, Justin, Phoebe, Kaci and Lucy all the very best for the exciting adventures still to come.”





# NAOMI TAKES ON THE COTSWOLD 10K FOR RAINBOW TRUST

CCS student Naomi has taken on her very first charity fitness event – the Cotswold 10k Challenge.

Covering an impressive 12,700 steps (around six miles) Naomi showed resilience and determination every step of the way.

She was supported by Novalis Health and Wellbeing Facilitator Mark Sweeting. Since his appointment last year, Mark has promoted the Trust's four pillars of health – Eat, Sleep, Movement and Play – which includes hobbies, interests and opportunities to engage with the wider community to develop social connections, life skills and independence.

**“This was not just about fundraising but about personal growth and embracing the pillars of health in action.”**

Naomi's training for the challenge focused on the “movement” and “eat” pillars, ensuring she was ready both physically and nutritionally for the big day.

“The last two kilometres were tough, but Naomi maintained her focus and kept moving forward,” said Mark. “We listened to music, enjoyed the beautiful scenery of the Cotswolds, and reminded ourselves why we were doing this together. It was more than just a walk – it was about connection, resilience and celebrating what we can achieve when we push ourselves.”

The challenge raised £125 for the Rainbow Trust, a charity close to Naomi's heart. The Rainbow Trust provides support workers who join families in their own homes, offering practical and emotional support to children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and their families.

“It was fun, rewarding and a real pleasure to get behind such an amazing cause,” added Mark. “Naomi's personal connection to the charity gave her the motivation to take on this challenge. She should be so proud of what she has achieved. This was not just about fundraising but about personal growth and embracing the pillars of health in action.”

**RAINBOW TRUST**

SUPPORTING FAMILIES WITH A SERIOUSLY ILL CHILD







# WE'RE ALL HAVING A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME

Festive cheer is in full swing at Cotswold Chine and William Morris Schools, where pupils, staff and families are enjoying a packed programme of seasonal celebrations.

WMS began the festivities on 28 November with a trip to the Eastington Christmas Festival to admire its dazzling tree displays. This was followed by class outings to Jack and the Beanstalk at the Roses Theatre in Tewkesbury on 1, 3 and 8 December. With colourful costumes, lively music and plenty of laughs, the pantomime offered the perfect start to the Christmas season.

The CCS choir made its return to Oldbury House Care Home in Stonehouse on 8 December, following last year's warmly received visit. Students prepared handmade cards and baked treats to share with residents. The choir will repeat the performance at Paradise House on 10 December, where everyone will be encouraged to sing along and jingle bells before giving a first-time concert at Regency Retirement Home in Stonehouse on 15 December. To add to the seasonal spirit, CCS will also host Mince Pie Monday on 15 December, giving everyone a chance to gather and enjoy a festive treat.

WMS pupils are also getting creative with a Christmas card-making workshop and will head out on an after-school trip to the Westonbirt Christmas Lights Trail on 11th December. CCS hosts a Winter Wonderland Wellbeing Evening on the same night, offering students a sensory-rich space to explore how to look after their wellbeing.

On 16 December, staff take to the stage for the much-loved Shepherd's Play, a humorous retelling of the nativity that has been a Novalis tradition for over ten years. Music teacher Hilary Ball accompanies the cast on piano. This year's performers include Jaimme Burfoot as the Star Singer; Ella Bullock as Mary; Sunaya Parkash as Joseph; Becky Kent as the Angel Gabriel and Ellie Gibson as Crispin. The shepherds – Huckle, Muckle and Gallus – are played by Mark Powis, Gavin Pond and Bruno Greatorrex, with James Philips, Bonnie Van Zanten and Lewis Newman appearing as the Inn Keepers.

The Trust's cooks will serve traditional Christmas lunches for all pupils and staff on 17 December, followed by festive activities, class parties and gifts for every child.

CCS will hold its Christmas concert in the new Lunchbox Café on 18 December, featuring class groups on mini steel tongue drums, piano solos, a performance from the band Trial and Error; and the choir accompanied by students on guitar, piano and ukulele. WMS will also welcome pupils and their families to its annual carol concert in St John's Hall on the same day, a much-loved tradition that brings the whole school community together. This event will also feature a performance from the WMS staff band.

Finally, CCS rounds off the celebrations with its Christmas Jumper Competition on 19 December, inviting pupils and staff to showcase their most colourful festive knitwear.







# A peak experience for DofE adventurers!

Four determined pupils from William Morris School have taken their Duke of Edinburgh adventure beyond the classroom – and all the way to the top of Cam Peak.

Over the past school year, the group have worked towards their Bronze DofE Award, completing challenges across volunteering, physical activity and skills. Their final test came in the form of an expedition that demanded teamwork, planning and perseverance.

Guided by their DofE teacher leads, Daniel Festa and Lily Thornton, the pupils devised a plan to hike across Cam Peak and its surrounding areas – navigating solely by map and compass. In a show of extra determination, Herbie chose to cycle from school to Cam Peak before joining the group at the starting point.

Preparation was key: pupils organised and budgeted for their essential kit, making careful choices on what was needed for safety and success. In the lead-up to the trip, they also learned vital outdoor skills such as how to safely start and use a BBQ, pitch a tent, and read a map effectively.

Dan said the group demonstrated strong communication, cooperation and resilience throughout the expedition.

"One of the standout moments came when Joey, reaching the summit of Cam Peak, said: 'I would love to do this every week!'" Dan added. "They all really pushed themselves and supported one another at every stage. The expedition wasn't just about reaching the top of Cam Peak – it was about the personal growth everyone achieved along the way."

The success of this year's Bronze group has inspired ongoing DofE work at WMS, with new pupils beginning their own journeys this academic year. Herbie, keen to continue his adventure, is now working towards his Silver Award and is considering becoming a student volunteer to help support future DofE participants at the school.





# CAROLINE MARKS 30 YEARS AS A REGISTERED OT

Deputy CEO of Novalis, Caroline Tebay, has reached a milestone this year – she celebrates 30 years of being a registered Occupational Therapist!

Throughout her career, Caroline – who is also the Trust's Head of Clinical & Therapy Services – has supported children and adults with a wide range of needs. She's helped people overcome challenges, build independence and discover new ways of approaching everyday life.

After many years working in the NHS, Caroline joined Novalis 14 years ago as a Consultant Occupational Therapist. In 2011 she became Head of Clinical Services and in 2016, she was appointed Deputy CEO, while continuing to lead clinical and therapy provision across the organisation.

Today, she's responsible for developing and strengthening therapeutic practice and mentoring the multi-disciplinary therapy team ensuring that high quality holistic support is at the heart of Novalis's work.

This year, Caroline's service has also been recognised nationally. The Royal College of Occupational Therapists sent a personal letter congratulating her on 30 years in practice, acknowledging her contribution to the profession and to the people she has supported.

"When I first qualified, I never imagined where this career would take me. I've been privileged to work alongside so many dedicated professionals and to support children and adults who have such resilience and potential," said Caroline. "Every day brings new challenges but also new opportunities to make a difference. That's what keeps me passionate about occupational therapy."

"I'm particularly proud of the way our therapy team works together," she added. "We take a holistic approach looking at the whole person and the barriers they may face, then finding creative ways to remove those barriers. Seeing the progress people make – however big or small – is one of the most rewarding parts of my work."

Occupational therapy plays a vital role in helping people overcome difficulties caused by mental, physical or learning disabilities. OTs assess how individuals perform activities or tasks and then devise plans to make these easier. This may mean finding new ways of doing things, making changes to the environment or helping to develop key skills – all with the aim of removing barriers and minimising disability.

Jake Lukas, CEO of Novalis Trust, said: "On behalf of everyone at Novalis, I'd like to congratulate Caroline on this milestone. Her knowledge and leadership have made a lasting difference to many lives and she continues to inspire us all. We're fortunate to have her guiding our therapeutic work and helping us deliver the very best for the people we support."



**"When I first qualified, I never imagined where this career would take me. I've been privileged to work alongside so many dedicated professionals and to support children and adults who have such resilience and potential..."**



# CHELSEA'S STORY INSPIRES CONVERSATIONS ABOUT HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

WMS hosted a very special theatre performance this term aimed at raising awareness of child sexual exploitation.

Pupils in Year 8 and above took part in the interactive production of Chelsea's Story which invited pupils to step into the shoes of the main character, Chelsea, and reflect on the choices she made and how things could have been different.

Performed by professional actors, the play explores Chelsea's experiences through the perspectives of three students and a teacher as they try to make sense of what happened to her.

Themes covered included healthy and unhealthy relationships, safe internet use, sexting, consent, grooming processes, child sexual exploitation and the differing methods used by perpetrators. The performance also highlighted where pupils can access help and advice if they ever feel unsafe or under pressure.

Following the production, pupils took part in an engaging post-show discussion, giving them the chance to explore the issues in greater depth and to reflect on the choices Chelsea and others around her made. This interactive element encouraged them to think about how they themselves might respond in similar situations.

To support the event, every pupil received an information sheet – designed with input from young people – which explained where to go for help if they ever feel worried about exploitation, feel unsafe or are being pressured into doing something against their will. School staff were also available throughout the day to provide guidance and support.

Chelsea's Story has already been seen by more than 950,000 young people across the UK, as well as hundreds of professionals, and forms part of WMS's wider safeguarding and PSHE programme. The production is supported by the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership which is working alongside other agencies nationwide to raise awareness of the risks and realities of child sexual exploitation.

Headteacher Gareth Parker said: "Chelsea's Story was a powerful and thought-provoking experience for our pupils. It dealt with a very challenging subject in a sensitive and engaging way and I believe it will have a lasting impact. Helping our young people to recognise risks, make safe choices and know where to turn for support is absolutely vital. I'm proud that our school has been able to host this important production."



## CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) – WHAT IS IT?

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of Child Abuse. It occurs when a young person (under the age of 18 – male or female) is tricked, trapped or manipulated into participating in sexual activity in return for money, gifts, drugs, alcohol or maybe just a little bit of attention. Sometimes it is as a result of a direct threat against the young person, their friends or family. The people that do this are so manipulative that often the young people that are being targeted will not recognise what is happening to them.

### HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS

What are some of the signs of a Healthy Relationship?

- Respect
- Honesty
- Trust
- Communication
- Equality
- Separate Identities

What are some of the signs on an Unhealthy Relationship?

- Verbal, Physical, Emotional or Sexual Abuse/Violence
- Controlling Behaviour
- No Respect
- No Honesty
- No Trust
- No Communication
- No Equality
- No Separate Identities

### SAFE INTERNET USE

What can you do to help keep yourself & your information safe online?

- Don't give out personal information
- Check that you have high privacy settings
- Don't meet up with people that you've only chatted to online
- Don't assume that whoever you are chatting to is necessarily telling you the truth
- Never text, email or post risky images of yourself or others. Once you've sent it you have no control over what happens to it
- Don't add people that you don't know (even if you have a mutual friend)
- Tell someone if you receive risky or abusive messages or comments



**RAISING AWARENESS OF CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**  
ALTEREGO CREATIVE SOLUTIONS LTD. ILLUSTRATING THE NARRATIVE AROUND COMPLEX SOCIAL ISSUES  
COUNTY LINES • KNIFE CRIME • CSE • eSAFETY • HATE CRIME • DOMESTIC ABUSE • COERCIVE CONTROL • RADICALISATION



# MOTIVATIONAL MONDAYS

## MAKE SUMMER SHINE!

Mondays were anything but ordinary for Cotswold Chine students during the summer holidays thanks to a packed programme of events organised by members of the therapy and youth support teams.

The Motivational Mondays brought everyone together for an impressive range of activities that were designed to keep spirits high and minds and bodies active during the six-week break.

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**‘...designed to keep spirits high and minds and bodies active...’**

Each Monday saw children getting stuck in and trying something new. They explored their creativity through colourful art projects and rose to the challenge of a Come Dine with Me competition, where they planned menus, went shopping for ingredients and cooked delicious meals together.







There were exciting scavenger hunts, team games and group challenges that got everyone moving and working as a team. Many of the children enjoyed peaceful dog walks through the local countryside as well as uplifting yoga and Zumba sessions to keep them feeling relaxed and energised. Sports were also a big part of the programme, with games played both on the MUGA and on Minchinhampton Common.

The final Motivational Monday of the summer focused on getting ready for the new school year. Children headed out to shop for their new uniforms and stationery so that they ended the holidays feeling organised and proud of their preparations.

Madina Panchbhaya (Deputy Head of Clinical and Therapy) praised the children's efforts and the teamwork of everyone involved.

"Motivational Mondays were all about keeping the children engaged, active and positive during the summer break," she said. "It was wonderful to see them trying new things, growing in confidence and enjoying each other's company. A huge thank you to the therapy and youth support teams for making it all happen and well done to the children for getting involved with such enthusiasm!"









# Team Building *with the* Tall Ships Trust

A crew of twelve Novalis staff members took to the water for a day of team building with the Tall Ships Trust.

The group set sail from Gunn Wharf Quay in Plymouth aboard the 72-foot Challenger 2 for the unique learning experience which was organised by Dan Woodhead (Enrichment Curriculum Subject Leader).

Built in 2000 with a solid steel hull, Challenger 2 was designed to race the “wrong way” around the world – against prevailing winds and tides – and is exceptionally strong and seaworthy. She provided the perfect platform for the team’s adventure.

Guided by the professional skipper and crew, staff were fully immersed in the sailing exercise. They learned how to tie knots, work the lines, operate winches, hoist and set the sails and even had a turn at taking the helm.



While a few staff had some sailing experience from previous school trips, for most it was their first time on board a yacht of this size. The group were blessed with ideal conditions – a sunny day with plenty of wind – making for an exhilarating time on the water.

“This was an amazing opportunity for staff to step outside their usual environment and work together in a completely new way,” said Dan Woodhead. “It was fantastic to see everyone pulling together, learning new skills and supporting one another – just as we do every day in school!”

“We really enjoyed getting to know colleagues from different teams and sites,” added Beth Price-Bish (Family & Systemic Practice Manager). “The day was not only about mastering new skills but also strengthening connections and teamwork that we will carry back into school life.”





# Pedal Power

## WMS pupils take on cycle challenge



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“The pupils were fantastic at motivating each other along the trail...”





**Pupils from William Morris School have been putting pedal power into practice, taking part in Cycle September – a Gloucestershire County Council initiative encouraging more people to get cycling across the county.**

Throughout the month-long challenge, schools, workplaces and community groups were invited to discover the joy of cycling – whether for short trips, daily commutes or weekend adventures.

WMS pupils including Lorenzo, Charlie, Andrzej, Lola, Herbie, Kameron and Lily rose to the challenge, clocking up an impressive 104 miles overall.

To celebrate their hard work, the group headed to the Forest of Dean in October to tackle the Colliers Trail. Excited to explore somewhere new, pupils embraced the off-road adventure, encouraging each other on the uphill stretches before enjoying the thrill of the downhill sections.

After a well-earned lunch at Mallards Pike, pupils explored the surrounding woodland, discovering a river walk and a rope swing that quickly became a highlight of the day.

“The pupils were fantastic at motivating each other along the trail,” said WMS teacher Daniel Festa. “It was wonderful to see their teamwork and enthusiasm – especially as they challenged themselves on new terrain. Days like this really capture the spirit of what Cycle September is all about: confidence, friendship and the joy of being outdoors.”

Cycle September supports Gloucestershire County Council's wider aim of increasing walking and cycling opportunities and complements major investment projects such as the Gloucestershire Cycle Spine – a 26-mile route linking Cheltenham and Gloucester and connecting communities across the county.

“Cycle September was a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to be part of a countywide challenge,” added Dan. “Many have already asked when we can go cycling again and I’m sure this is just the start of many more adventures to come.”

Well done to all the pupils for their incredible effort and enthusiasm!





# WMS PUPILS QUIZ LOCAL MP ON BIG ISSUES OF THE DAY

**William Morris School was delighted to welcome local MP Dr Simon Opher this term for an engaging question-and-answer session with pupils.**

During the lively discussion, pupils quizzed Dr Opher on a wide range of topics including housing, environmental policy and how to navigate negativity on social media – both as a public figure and as a young person.

The MP also spoke candidly about his journey into politics and offered a glimpse into the daily realities of life as a Member of Parliament.

Pupils from across year groups took part, asking thoughtful, well-researched questions that reflected their awareness of current affairs and social issues.

Headteacher Gareth Parker praised the pupils' maturity and curiosity. "It was wonderful to see our pupils so engaged with real-world issues," he added. "They asked insightful questions that showed real understanding of the challenges we face as a society. Dr Opher's visit was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to see how their voices and opinions matter."







# Creating Space for Neurodiversity at Work

Novalis has set up a Neurodiversity Support Group designed to give staff a supportive space to talk openly about their experiences in the workplace.

Colleagues from across the Trust have been coming together every month for the group meetings which are run by Caroline Tebay (Deputy CEO and Head of Clinical & Therapy Services) and James Phillips (Head of Training).

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**“The sessions are an opportunity not only to learn but also to assist each other.”**

The sessions are open to staff who have a diagnosis, are exploring a diagnosis or who identify with a particular neurodiversity. Its aim is to remove stigma

and create understanding while also sharing practical tools and strategies that can help in day-to-day working life.

Each meeting explores a different theme and recent discussions have included technology and support tools that can assist with sensory processing differences and monotropism – a concept linked to autism and ADHD – where someone is able to deeply focus on a single idea but can find it harder to switch between topics.

“We know that many colleagues either have a diagnosis, are seeking one or simply identify with aspects of neurodiversity,” said Caroline. “This group reflects the Trust’s commitment to making sure people feel supported and understood at work. The sessions are an opportunity not only to learn but also to assist each other.”

Any staff member who would like to join the group or find out more is encouraged to get in touch with Caroline or James via email: [caroline.tebay@novalis-trust.org.uk](mailto:caroline.tebay@novalis-trust.org.uk); [james.phillips@novalis-trust.org.uk](mailto:james.phillips@novalis-trust.org.uk)



# LIVING IN A BUBBLE

## JUST FOR ONE MUSICAL DAY!



**CCS students were treated to a unique blend of live classical music and bubble artistry this term.**

A professional duo from Music for Miniatures visited the school to perform Bubble Bach, a multi-sensory concert designed to make classical music accessible and engaging for young audiences.

The hall became a space of sound and motion as students watched bubbles drift, burst and swirl in time with music by Bach.

"It was an amazing meeting of music and visual performance," said CCS music teacher Hilary Ball. "Everyone was absorbed from the first note."

The musicians introduced pupils to an array of instruments, including the piano, violin, oboe, cor anglais, recorder and boomwhackers, performing well-known Bach works such as "Prelude in C Major" and "Air on the G String".

One member of the duo – a professional bubbleologist – created bubbles of every size and

type. "There were giant bubbles stretching across the room, bubbles within bubbles, smoke-filled bubbles and even controlled fire bubbles," added Hilary. "Each display matched the character of the music, giving students a visual pathway into pieces they may not have encountered before."

Four concerts were held throughout the day, ensuring every class had the chance to take part. Students interacted with the bubbles and with each other, especially during the finale when they were invited to stand inside a giant bubble.

"Many students were experiencing this style of music for the first time," said Hilary. "The combination of live performance and bubble art broadened their musical understanding. It was inspiring to see them all enjoying it together."

Feedback from the students was also positive. "It was amazing, I want them to come back," said Courtney. "I loved it, it was the most amazing thing on planet Earth," added Sophia. Naomi said: "I enjoyed listening to the music, especially with all the bubbles," while Lucy described it as "bubblelicious" and Jakob rated the performance as "10 out of 10".





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**“The combination of live performance and bubble art broadened their musical understanding. It was inspiring to see them all enjoying it together.”**





# Morris Fest 2025

**William Morris School welcomed pupils, families and staff to Morris Fest '25 – a summer event celebrating the achievements of the past academic year!**

William Morris School welcomed pupils, families and staff to Morris Fest '25 – a summer event celebrating the achievements of the past academic year!

The annual celebration day included displays of pupils' work alongside a varied programme of activities such as games, face painting, printmaking, craft stalls and a delicious BBQ lunch prepared and cooked

by members of the Novalis Trust domestic and maintenance teams.

Live music and performances from pupils added to the atmosphere, while the school gardens – decorated with bunting and artwork inspired by favourite book characters – provided a colourful backdrop.

"Our annual celebration day – this year under the Morris Fest theme – is an important date in our calendar. It gives us a chance to reflect on the progress our pupils have made and to share that with families and the wider community," said Headteacher Gareth Parker. "Events like this highlight the value of working together. I want to thank everyone who took part and supported the day."





# NOVALIS PUTS ITS BEST FOOT FORWARD



The Novalis community came together for its annual Best Foot Forward Walk this summer – a much-loved tradition marking the end of the academic year.

Staff, pupils from Cotswold Chine and William Morris Schools, and people living at Paradise House joined forces to walk around Minchinhampton Common, celebrating resilience and reflecting on achievements from the past year.

Halfway through the route, everyone was met with a well-earned treat from Winstone's ice cream van, before crossing the finish line to receive a medal in recognition of their efforts. The event concluded with a shared lunch at The Lunchbox Café, bringing

together members of the wider Trust community – including its faithful team of therapy dogs.

Later in the week, families gathered at Cotswold Chine School for the annual Celebration Day. This year's theme, Celebrations Around the World, inspired creative displays across classrooms and a lively performance written and performed by pupils, based on Roald Dahl's *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. The day ended with a delicious BBQ prepared by members of the domestic and maintenance teams.





# CCS THERAPY TEAM

## share skills in workshop series

Cotswold Chine School's therapy team joined forces for a series of workshops designed to help colleagues learn from each other's expertise.





**“I wanted to create an opportunity for us to learn more about the great work being done by our colleagues and to strengthen the relationships within our team.”**

The weekly Therapy Workshops – set up by the Trust’s Family & Systemic Practice Manager Beth Price-Bish – brought together practitioners from across the diverse range of therapeutic disciplines at Novalis.

Each session, held at Ebley House, was led by a member of the therapy team who introduced their specific area of practice through a short presentation and question time followed by hands-on experiential activities demonstrating their approach.

Workshop topics included Play Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Family Work and Systemic Practice, Occupational Therapy, Social Work Informed Practice and Life Story Work, as well as Clinical Therapy Assistant Goal Work and Education (Barriers to Learning) Support.

“I’ve always felt the depth of experience and skill within our multidisciplinary team is something really special,” said Beth. “I wanted to create an opportunity for us to learn more about the great work being done by our colleagues and to strengthen the relationships within our team.”

The summer workshops were open to members of the therapy team based at CCS, but it is hoped that the initiative will be rolled out across the Trust in the coming months.

“I hope the workshops have helped us develop a more joined-up way of working which will benefit the children and families we support,” added Beth. “Thank you to the therapists and the practitioners who shared their skills and knowledge so generously.”





# summer outreach programme

helps pupils  
stay connected







**“The outreach programme helped to ensure that pupils returned to school feeling settled and ready to learn...”**



## WMS pupils took part in a summer outreach programme designed to provide support, continuity and a smoother transition back to school after the long break.

Extended time away from school can be unsettling for many pupils, sometimes increasing anxiety and placing extra strain on families. The outreach programme – organised by John Smith (Positive Support and Behaviour Analyst) and Martha Lukas (Placement Planning Social Worker) – offered a safe and supportive environment where familiar routines and staff helped children feel secure while enjoying fun activities.

During the week, pupils visited Over Farm Park in Gloucester where highlights included a magic show, mini golf, a tractor tour, a foam party and animal feeding sessions.

On school-based days, they took part in hair braiding and nail painting as well as arts and crafts ranging from painting pots and creating wooden signs to watercolours, flag design and fabric art. They also challenged themselves with building projects using magnetic tiles, K'nex, Lego and 3D jigsaws alongside sports challenges and scavenger hunts.

“A recent study carried out across more than 190 UK secondary schools found that school holiday interventions can significantly reduce socioeconomic inequalities in mental health and wellbeing,” said John. “Programmes such as ours give children more opportunities for social interaction making the return to school smoother and less stressful. Everyone seemed to enjoy taking part and we received lots of ‘thank yous’ from the pupils at the end of each activity day.”

“The outreach programme helped to ensure that pupils returned to school feeling settled and ready to learn,” added Martha. “It was wonderful to see everyone engaging confidently with both familiar staff and friends while exploring new activities.”

A parent survey to measure the success of the initiative revealed that WMS families felt the activity days had a positive impact on their children. There was strong support for similar programmes in the future.





# FROM THE COTSWOLDS TO CATALONIA

## CCS STUDENTS ON TOUR!

A group of students from Cotswold Chine School travelled to Barcelona for a language and cultural visit this term.

Malachi, Cassie, Summer, Violet and Tyler were joined by teachers Dan Woodhead, Paul Bettson and Natalia Jarvis for the trip, which gave students the opportunity to experience Spanish life and culture while practising their language skills.

The group visited several of Barcelona's most famous landmarks, including the Sagrada Família, the tallest church in the world designed by architect Antoni Gaudí, and Park Güell, known for its colourful mosaics and sweeping views over the city.

They also explored Camp Nou Stadium, home of FC Barcelona, enjoyed a boat ride along the coast and visited the Barcelona Aquarium, which features 80 tanks and around 11,000 animals from different marine species. An outing to a traditional Catalan restaurant was another highlight of the trip.

"The visit offered students the chance to learn outside the classroom, build confidence and gain new experiences together in one of Europe's most vibrant cities," said Dan Woodhead. "They represented the school exceptionally well during the visit, showing enthusiasm, curiosity and respect wherever they went."

