

Special Activities and Achievements

Autumn Term 2024

Opportunities to develop Communication – Self Regulation –
Resilience – Independence and Discovery

Harvest Festival Celebrations at HHS



Our Harvest Festival got off to a wonderful start by the harvesting of carrots, beetroot and courgettes from the Hill House allotment. The vegetables were cleaned and processed before being delivered to the school kitchen. It was only a matter of hours before they started appearing in our delicious school dishes!

Everyone then got to discover and investigate harvesting on a much larger scale by the arrival of a tractor. Young people were wholeheartedly encouraged to explore the lights, wipers, and horn



Another important activity also took place in the allotment. The planting of Spring bulbs. As we head into the dark nights, the colder, greyer weather, it is good to keep looking forward, with hope, to when we emerge back out of the winter months. The mixed planters that young people created will be the first signs that sunnier days will be returning. Everyone chose to plant a trough as a class or an individual pot. They were labelled and watered and now we need to wait!

Hill House at Tile Barn!

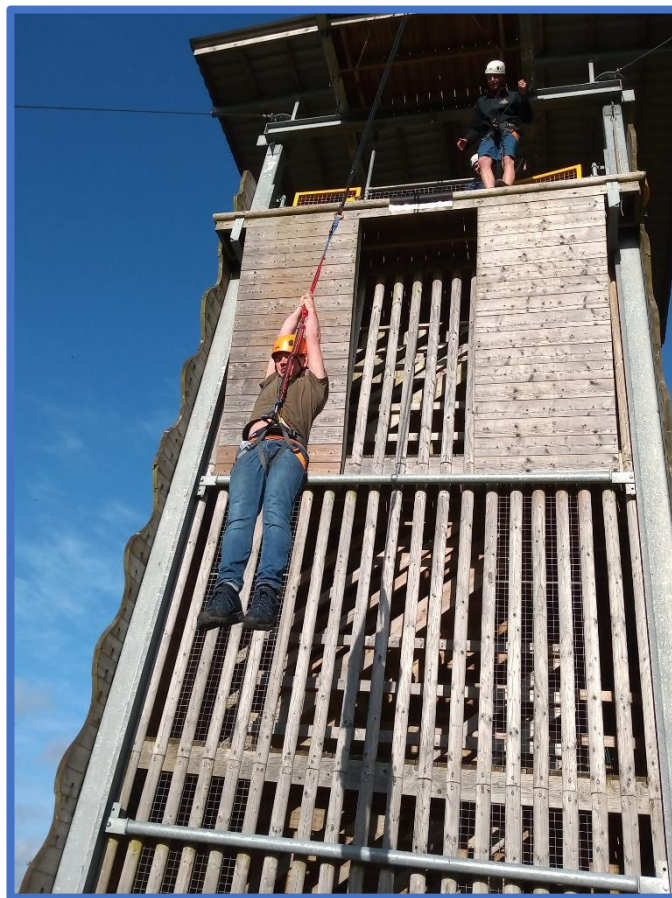
With the start of a new academic year came the start of a new relationship between Hill House School and Tile Barn Activity Centre. On Monday mornings and Friday afternoons two groups of young people take part in their Tile Barn programme. The programme has been designed with progression in mind, building skills and confidence as the weeks progress.

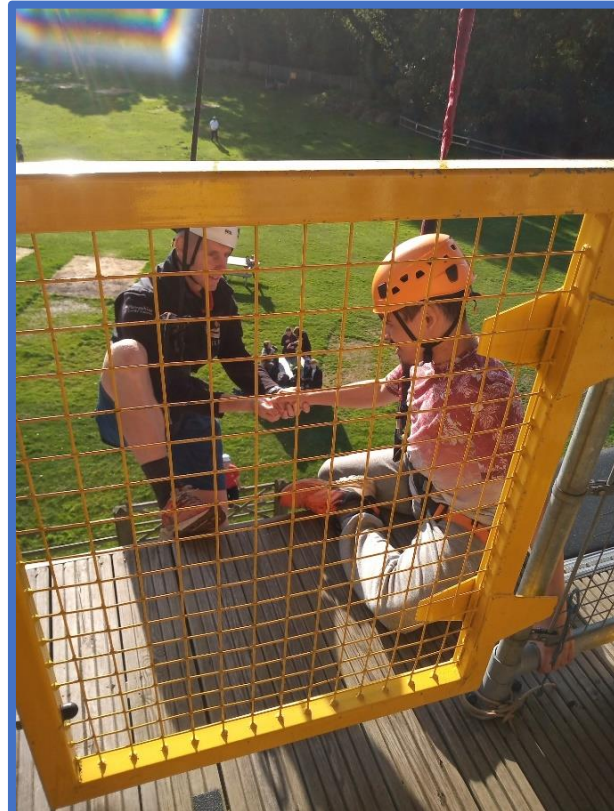
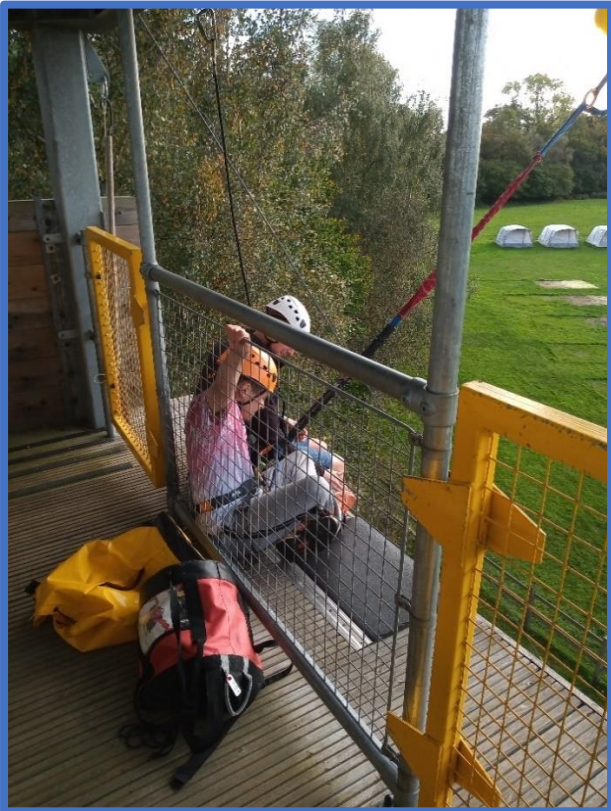
The Hill House curriculum aims are being achieved and exceeded weekly as our young people participate and enjoy so many new activities.

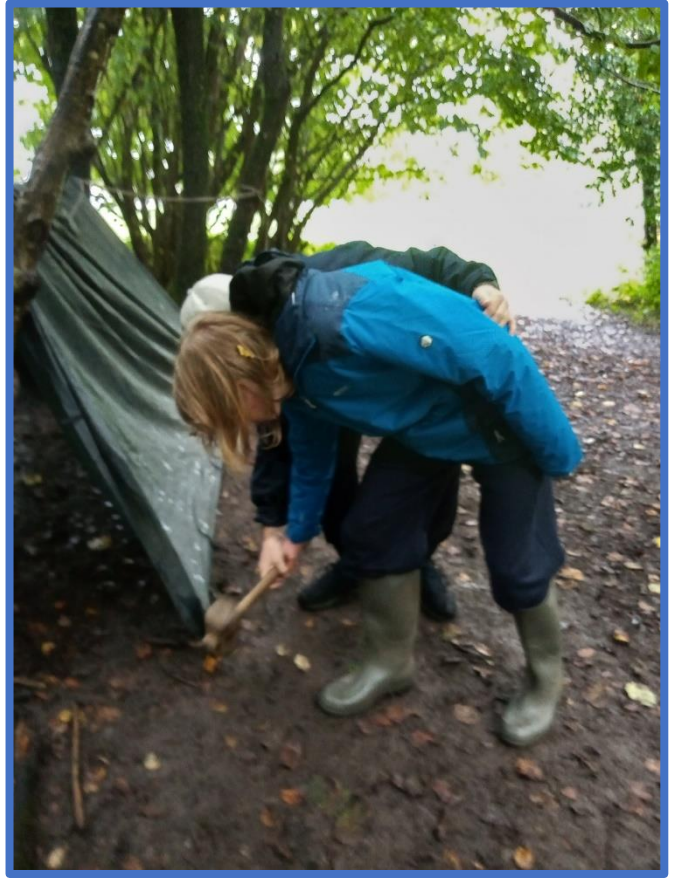
We **discover** new people, new places, new equipment and new skills. We **communicate** with our new instructors, our staff and each other as we learn. We are building **resilience** as we persevere at our activities. We practise **self-regulation** as we navigate all the challenges that are presented to us. Our **independence** grows as we return each week to learn something new.

From rocket launching to orienteering, low ropes to climbing, our young people have tackled them all. On occasions when the challenge is a little too much we know that the opportunity will be presented again so every try is a step towards the activity goal.

There have been so many proud moments for us already!















Nurture in Nature

Over 3 weeks in October / November Hill House planned some additional opportunities for young people to experience a range of nature focused activities both around the school and out and about in the local area. We are so lucky to be in the New Forest with all it has to offer and it was the perfect time of year to take advantage of this.

Nurture in Nature helps all of us to be mindful and to take opportunities to relax and enjoy being together.

Week One



Monday 21 st October	Tuesday 22 nd October	Wednesday 23 rd October	Thursday 24 th October	Friday 25 th October
Activities: Eco cabin nature crafts Connect and play in the hall with toys and games Music Expressive Arts Club	Activities: Eco cabin nature crafts Connect and play in the hall with toys and games Toasting Marshmallows by the campfire in the allotment! Nurture sessions	Activities: Eco cabin nature crafts OT sessions Football with Saintsability in the Hall. Relaxation in the OT room (massages and deep pressure training) Nurture sessions	Activities: Eco cabin nature crafts Connect and play in the hall with toys and games Trip to the Isle of Wight for two young people Sensory play in the hall (Life cycle of a frog) OT sessions Nurture sessions Food explorers club	Activities: Eco cabin nature crafts Connect and play in the hall with toys and games Pumpkin Festival outings OT sessions Nurture sessions









Anti-Bullying Week at Hill House School



Hill House had fun taking part in the National Anti - Bullying week. This year the theme was

‘Choose Respect’

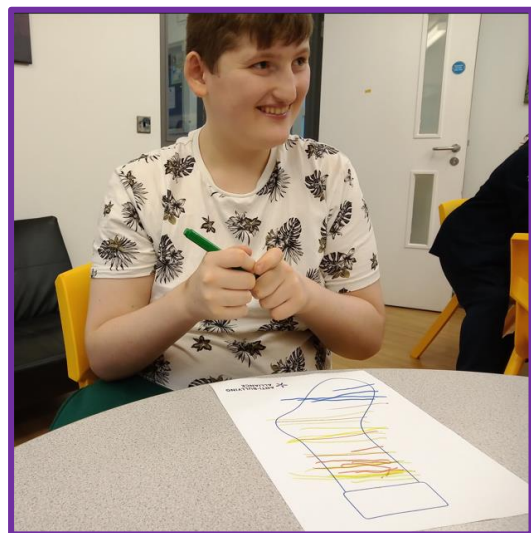
Young people learnt all about respect and how to be a good friend

They listened to stories about kindness and compassion and produced their own stories about feelings

Anti - bullying posters were created and young people explored what attributes are needed to be a kind friend

The highlight of the week was the ‘Odd Sock’ day! Everyone designed and decorated their own socks and then came together to celebrate creativity and diversity

The week provided valuable opportunities to learn about how to respect one another and everyone enjoyed sharing some lovely experiences





PEDALL – New Forest Inclusive Cycling



This term young people have had the opportunity to participate in PEDALL inclusive cycling sessions out and about in the New Forest

PEDALL is a wonderful organisation making cycling accessible for all

They have a diverse fleet of specialised cycles meaning there is a bike for everyone

Young people have been learning how to stay safe by wearing a cycle helmet and trying out all the different bikes

The electric three wheelers have proved popular and everyone has had so much fun riding along the tracks exploring the forest





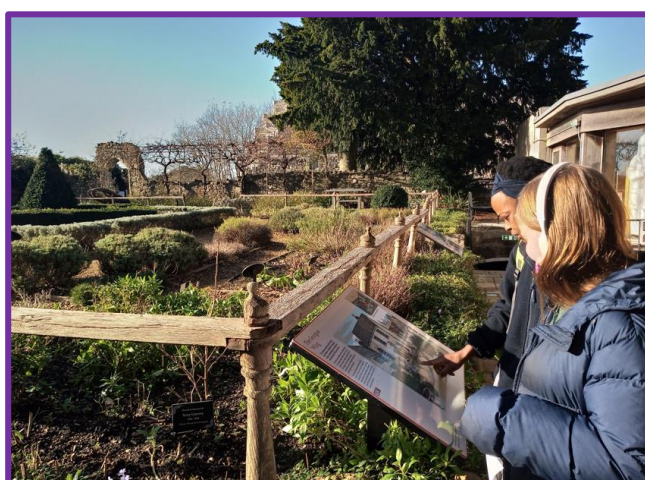
Thematic Learning – Trip to the Tudor House and Gardens



This term, young people from the lower school have been learning all about the Tudors and as part of this topic, visited the Tudor House and Gardens in Southampton. Tudor House offered a unique insight into the lives and times of its residents over the years and into Southampton itself. At Tudor House and Gardens, the young people were able to enjoy a number of activities tailored to their interests and ages. There were exhibitions incorporating interactive technology, which helped young people to engage and interact with all the elements that the museum had to offer

The tour began in the banquet hall and ended in the gardens. The history of the house was extraordinary, encompassing everything from the medieval period to the present day. There were so many opportunities to learn and explore. After the tour the group took part in a specially designed workshop which was both hands on and sensory. Everyone had fun trying on different historical outfits and participating in a range of games and puzzles all about the Tudors!

This thematic learning trip provided a perfect opportunity to explore and learn all about the Tudors. It offered interesting and unique ways for young people to work on our key curriculum aims of **Developing Communication; Independence; Resilience; Self - Regulation** and most of all **Discovery!**







Mirror, Mirror on the wall...who's the fairest of them all?Snow White of course!

Pantomime Season comes to Hill House



Pantomime season came to Hill House when the West Midlands Childrens Theatre company visited to perform the much loved Snow White

The show was packed full of comedy, music and excitement

There was plenty of audience participation where young people were invited to come onto the stage and everyone had the chance to share their best dance moves!

An interactive drama experience always provides so many opportunities for young people at Hill House, time to practise concentration, time to engage, time to discover and above all time to have fun!



A special trip to the theatre

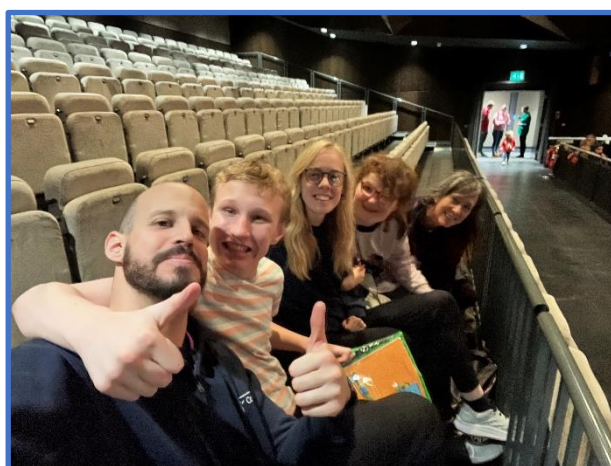


Two young people from Hill House went on a special trip to the theatre. The 'Very Hungry Caterpillar Christmas Show' was showing at the Mayflower Studio in Southampton. It was a wonderful day starting with a lovely lunch at Nando's then a walk in the park before heading to the theatre

The show comprised of a number of Eric Carle's stories and both young people were completely immersed in the experience and mesmerised by the wonderful puppets. Their favourite stories were 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The young people talked along with the story and also loved applauding the actors

Both young people enjoyed the experience thoroughly and have requested to see another show together in the New Year

The trip was a great success and a wonderful opportunity for two young people to follow their interest in live performances and theatre and to discover new experiences out and about



New DoE group get started on their Bronze award!



After the success of last year's accomplishments where 5 young people from HHS achieved their Bronze DoE award, another 5 young people now have the opportunity to work towards this prestigious accreditation

So far this term, new skills have been learnt and contributions to the local community made

Young people have learnt how to put up a tent and cook outdoors. They have been on hikes, taken part in litter picks, attended Tile Barn activity centre and had fun in a hammock!

The Spring and Summer terms will bring more opportunities to further develop these skills culminating in the final two day expedition!





Providing Training for trainee social workers at Bournemouth University



Some of our therapy team were invited to go along to Bournemouth University and speak to a group of third year undergraduate students studying social work

The team presented information titled 'Supporting Mental Health at Hill House School'

This included a deep dive into the specialist services at HHS including speech and language therapy; occupational therapy; psychology and behaviour support as well as the overarching nurture network

It also included information about the `Zones of Regulation` and `Language that Cares`

The team used case studies to demonstrate how HHS support young people through nurture and also on the role that the young person's social worker has

Feedback from the course lead as well as the group was positive with the following sent to the team after the event;

I just wanted to say a big thank you to you and Emily and Alex for such a great session last week. I had lots of very positive feedback from the students who found it very useful and went away with a good idea of what makes a good social worker.

You all had great presentation skills and you were able to demonstrate how theory and research can be applied and adapted to real situations. Your passion and commitment to each individual child was inspirational.

I have spoken to our student placement coordinators, and they would be keen to talk to your manager about potential social work student placements with you. I think that it would be a great student experience, particularly as your children all have 'Looked After' status and having students is often a great two-way experience as they bring fresh eyes to the process.

Once again, Many Thanks to you all.

Visit from Jilly the donkey!

As part of our end of term Christmas celebrations, we were lucky to welcome Jilly the donkey back to Hill House

Everyone had the opportunity to meet Jilly, give her a brush and a special carrot treat
This was a lovely way to develop discovery and interaction...thank you Jilly for coming to meet us all again





Even more pantomimes!!!!

As well as the visiting theatre group coming to HHS, young people also had the opportunity to go along to some local performances

The annual panto in Bournemouth this year was Jack and the Beanstalk and a group of young people went along to the Bournemouth Pavilion for a magical 3D performance



There was also an opportunity at the end of term to support a local school by going along to their dress rehearsal of a very special 'Panto – Monium`

There was singing, music, colourful costumes and lots of slap stick!

MacMillan Bake Sale and Competition

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



This term the whole school supported the MacMillan coffee morning event by holding a giant bake sale and competition!

Everyone got involved and across two days there was an amazing array of different cakes that people had thoughtfully baked and brought in to share

It was just wonderful to see the young people come and choose their favourite cake and the event provided such a social occasion where everyone came together

There was a raffle and a just giving page and on the second day a member of our Professional Learning Community came to judge the best cakes!

The event was such a success and for such a worthy cause

An incredible £400 was raised from the cake sales as well as from on line donations. Well done HHS and a big thank you to Margita for organising the event



Christmas Celebration



The whole school came together, along with friends and visitors to celebrate another incredible year at HHS!

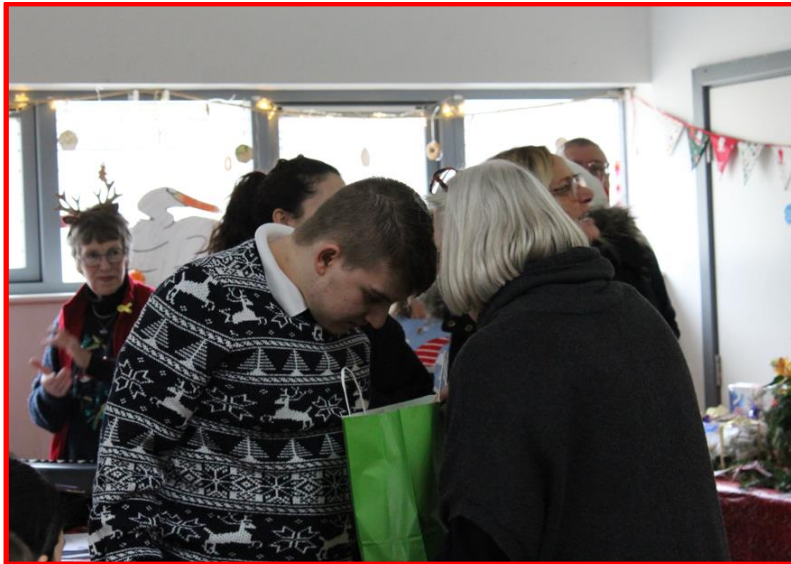
There were carols and mince pies and a special performance from a young person who has been having weekly piano lessons

The HHS singing group led the popular '12 Days of Christmas' along with props, actions and lots of laughter!

There was a presentation of personal achievements which was a wonderful way to recognise all the progress that has been made







Student's individual achievements were recognised and celebrated. These included;

- * Going along to PedALL and being so confident to ride the bikes. A real demonstration of resilience
- * Learning new skills at PedALL
- * Going along to Tile Barn each week and being so brave trying new activities
- * Doing really well going along to PedALL and enjoying riding through the forest and demonstrating confidence
- * Doing really well joining in activities with others and being helpful doing jobs to help everyone around the school
- * Demonstrating resilience and confidence whilst enjoying and achieving
- * Impressive work using different strategies from the special `clever action` bag
- * Thriving at Tile Barn every week, joining in with rope balance activities, the climbing wall, archery, water rockets and more
- * Improving concentration when taking part in an activity and for helping with little jobs around the classroom
- * Showing enthusiasm and enjoyment when learning phonics and starting to read three letter words
- * We are very proud of the relationships made with class mates. Going to the Tudor house museum and also going along to Tile barn, learning new skills, taking part in archery, water rockets and rope balance activities
- * Well done for sharing a positive attitude with us all, we are very impressed by your knowledge with technology and the fact that you have been willing to give everything a try
- * Well done for showing great courage and determination in early experiences pedalling in the New Forest
- * Well done for doing so well using your Talk Pad confidently in college as well as out and about
- * Fantastic job for showing such bravery and determination to climb at Tile Barn!
- * Doing so well exploring and learning archery! Listening to the coach so well
- * Well done for doing an amazing job every Friday morning during your work experience at the pub! You have shown confidence and skill in completing all the tasks to get the pub ready for their customers

- * For creativity, curiosity, and consistent enthusiasm in attending and contributing to class 3
- * For discovery and resilience in exploring new hobbies, such as practising cycling in the New Forest
- * For being a good role model, showing empathy, and helping new friends feel welcome and safe in class 3
- * Resilience and adaptability in using different transport, such as the train and ferry, and visiting the Isle of Wight
- * For curiosity and initiative in exploring different types of transport, such as the train
- * For compassion and dedication when playing with Ruut, the HHS therapy dog and showing genuine care and empathy
- * Exploring new hobbies and becoming more independent during Mindfulness time
- * For a wonderful start at Hill House and for being an excellent role model when out and about
- * Building confidence and independence when out and about
- * Consistently excellent work at the New Forest Fruit farm during work experience
- * Working on resilience and self - regulation when accessing the allotment and going out and about on a regular basis

