

Education Progress and Achievements Report – Summer Term 2024

Termly Targets working towards EHCP Outcomes

Above Expected Progress
Expected Progress
Below Expected Progress

Total Students 27	Overall Expected & Above Progress	Above Expected	Expected	Below Expected
Increasing Independence	100%	14/27 52%	13/27 48%	0%
Resilience	100%	19/27 70%	8/27 30%	0%
Self-Regulation	100%	11/27 41%	16/27 59%	0%
Communication	100%	15/27 56%	12/27 44%	0%
Discovery	100%	24/27 89%	3/27 11%	0%

What has gone well?

The curriculum in both the college and lower school continues to enable the students to make progress in the key areas of;

- Increasing Independence
- Communication
- Resilience
- Self-regulation
- Discovery

This summer we took a different approach to measuring, assessing and celebrating the students small and also in many cases significant progress towards their EHCP Outcomes

The breadth of the curriculum in the lower school remained as it is key to ensuring that the students have enjoyable learning experiences whilst working towards their targets and goals

Rather than assess progress in particular subjects, we instead set targets and assessed the progress in relation to the school and colleges curriculum aims

In the college, students continued to realise the curriculum aims and are increasingly appreciative of the broad range of learning experiences on offer to them. Land Science remains a popular area of the curriculum for the students and all are able to access and enjoy the allotment/farm. Progress in this area across the summer term was outstanding with 100% of students making expected or above expected progress in Land Science. Land science targets are set and not only were all of these achieved by the students but this area of the curriculum promotes the wider

curriculum aims and has had a significant impact on the college student's self-esteem, resilience and independence

The student's preparations for adulthood were enhanced by curriculum opportunities within the OCR life and living skills framework particularly in the areas of domestic science and expressive arts where all college students were able to access learning experiences in these areas. This alongside the breadth and variety of off-site "Out and About" activities in both the school and college opened up the world for our students ensuring that 89% of students made expected or above expected progress in the **Discovery** area of the curriculum.

All the students have worked so hard this year and there have been many wonderful achievements.....5 DofE awards.....14 John Muir awards and 68 OCR awards! The team's dedication and high expectations have enabled the young people to experience so many memorable learning opportunities.

Special Activities and Achievements during the Summer Term 2024

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

Duke of Edinburgh award expedition 2024!

Monday 10th June saw the inaugural Duke of Edinburgh expedition get off to a fantastic start. It began with an early morning for the team involving having a hearty cooked (Trangia style!) breakfast, preparing their lunch and packing their rucksacks for their hike to Hurst Castle. Young people used their map of landmarks to ensure they were heading in the right direction, laughing and chatting along the way. The scenery was amazing, the sun shone upon everyone and by staying and working together we all made it in good time.

The team tucked into their well-earned lunches and had a little time for rest and regrouping before extensive exploration of the castle. They travelled through history from the stronghold of Henry VIII to re-living the weapons and artefacts of the second world war. Bastions were climbed, gunpowder stores crept through, every nook, cranny, item and staircase were explored and explained.

The team bravely faced a boat trip across a stretch of the Solent back to the start point. Being the first time on a boat for some young people and staff alike there was encouragement and support bandied about in all directions. The team helped each other on and off the vessel, no one was required to walk the plank or ended up over board! A weary bunch of young people continued on dry land with their walk back to the vehicles, all happy with their achievements.

Back at Hill House it was time to put up tents. There was a systematic approach to the poles and pegs; with some collaboration the large blue shelter was up and overhead. The team were in and out, zipping and unzipping, lying down, standing up, crawling about, all the great things one should do in a tent. Once that activity was exhausted the Trangia went back on for hot dogs all round. Eventually, once tummies were full and the clearing up complete, the team retreated for a good night's sleep before expedition Day 2!

The team were up bright and early and ready for the off for day 2 on Tuesday 11th. On arrival at Fairthorne Manor activity centre the young people took charge of navigating the group around the site to take part in their activities. First up there was some archery. The team were able to hone their physical ability, aim and accuracy and resilience skills at using their bow and arrows. One young person even struck gold!

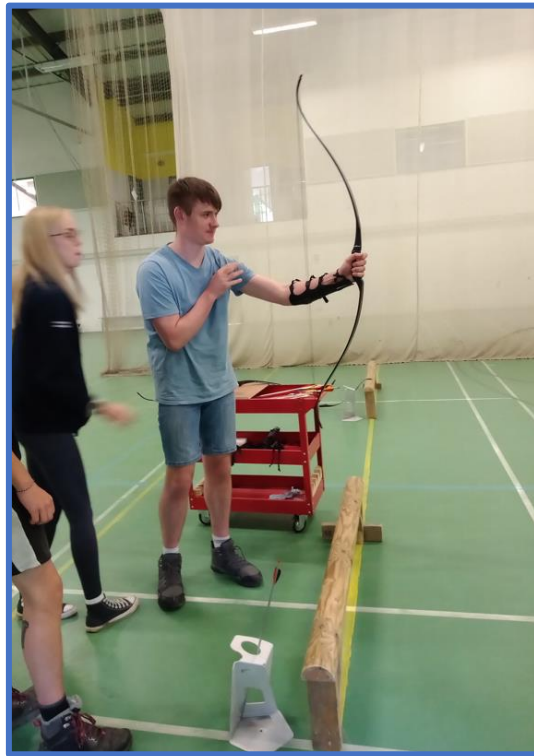
Raft building was a great team effort by staff and young people alike. Once the raft was securely assembled, the team paddled about on the lake for quite some time, with plenty of whooping and laughing to be heard from the bank. The vessel stayed together which meant there were no water casualties!


The incredible jumping pillow kept everyone busy as and when there was a free moment. The entire team bounced and bounced. Some of our young people leapt incredibly high whilst others bounced on their tummies. The jumping pillow was absolutely joyous – the shrieking and screaming could be heard from the woods!

The final activity of the very long day was the obstacle challenge course. The DofE group were amazing with the way they tackled each of the obstacles. They all required balance, concentration, co-ordination and courage and each young person gave it their very best shot. The group were great at encouraging each other and celebrating each success, it was a great activity to end the expedition with, the comradery and team work shone through.


This was the first group from HHS to work towards the DofE award. They have worked really hard across the weeks, learning new skills, taking part in many challenges and making a contribution to the local community by taking on some volunteering work. A special presentation event has been arranged for the group and we are hoping to have the Bronze certificates ready to be awarded during our celebration day at the end of term






**Well done and congratulations – you’ve achieved your Bronze Award!**


Dear Levi,




You’ve done it! We’re excited to let you know that you are now a DofE Award holder.

**Well done and congratulations – you’ve achieved your Bronze Award!**


Dear Harry,




You’ve done it! We’re excited to let you know that you are now a DofE Award holder.

**Well done and congratulations – you’ve achieved your Bronze Award!**


Dear William,



You’ve done it! We’re excited to let you know that you are now a DofE Award holder.

**Well done and congratulations – you’ve achieved your Bronze Award!**

Dear Pierre,



You’ve done it! We’re excited to let you know that you are now a DofE Award holder.

Article published in the Minstead Trust's - 'Trusted Views' newsletter

Volunteering update:

Hill House School and Furzey Gardens – a wonderful combination!

Hill House School is a residential special educational provision for young people with Autism and further individual, additional needs. For the first time Hill House is participating in The Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Award has opened up its criteria to allow for adaptation that will provide the opportunity of young adults who previously may not have been able to participate to get stuck in to achieving their award.

The collaboration between Furzey Gardens and Hill House is a joyful one. The volunteering section of Duke of Edinburgh has many strands, the most important being time allocation and venue. Furzey being a charitable organisation fitted the bill, but more importantly their willingness and enthusiasm to welcome us has been vital to the success of the work placement.

Six Hill House students look forward to their work at Minstead and thrive in the beautiful environment. Supported by the fantastic Tim, the students take on a range of tasks to help maintain the gardens. Tim understands our young people, he gives them relevant tasks, is flexible with his approach and provides them with knowledge and opportunity to stretch and engage them. Not only are they adapting and expanding their skills, but their personal growth too with regards to working in a different environment with new people and the general public which is an achievement in itself.

Thank you Furzey Gardens for all you do, looking forward to seeing you next week. 😊

By Alex Jamieson – Vocational and Land Science Lead, Hill House School.



Supporting people with learning disabilities to lead more independent lives.

Seeing
potential

John Muir Award

The John Muir Award encourages people of all backgrounds to connect with, enjoy and care for wild places. It is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It is inclusive, accessible and non-competitive, that sets appropriate challenges for each of our college students. The Award encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment through a structured yet adaptable scheme, in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration

Our sixth form young people have taken part in a range of activities under our 'One Planet Living' initiative, working towards the John Muir **Discovery** and **Explorer** award

14 young people have received a Nationally recognised accreditation for their work and the award has nurtured a true appreciation of the natural world and a responsibility that we all have to look after it



"When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with islands and continents, flying through space with all the other stars, all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty. The grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere. The dew is never all dried at once. A shower is forever falling; vapour forever rising. Eternal sunrise, eternal sunset, eternal dawn and gloaming, on sea and continents and islands, each in its turn as the round earth roll" John Muir

Trip to Longdown Farm

As part of the thematic learning topic, young people visited a local farm

It was a fun day out where everyone got to meet and learn about different animals

There were plenty of opportunities to feed the goats and hold baby chicks and to learn how to look after the animals

The hands on experience provided opportunities to work on young people's discovery and resilience skills



Open Farm Day at the New Forest Fruit Farm

Sunday 9th June saw some of the young people of Hill House School take part in the nation-wide Open Farms Sunday event where upon farms across the country open their doors, or indeed gates to welcome people in to see how their farm works.

The New Forest Fruit Company are local growers who have been working with Hill House School for 18 months. They provide work experience for our sixth formers at their sites in East Boldre and Beaulieu.

Our young people had a wonderful time going on the tractor tours, having their faces painted, exploring a huge range of machinery used on the farm and even the robots that are emerging technology for strawberry picking. PYO was a joyful activity – not all of the fruit made it into the punnets however!

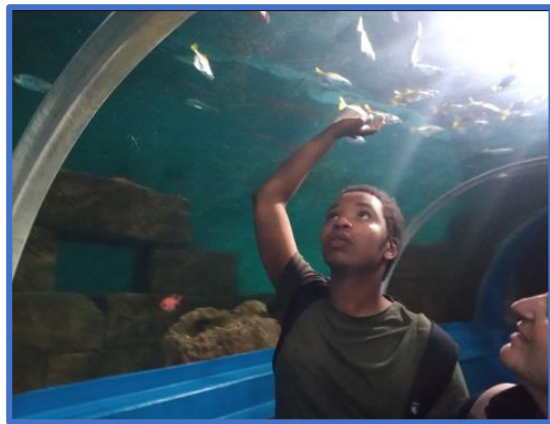
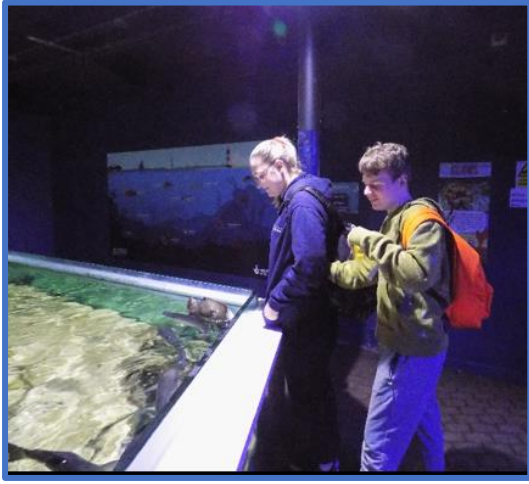
Some young people helped out by meeting visitors and handing out stickers. As always, our young people were a credit to themselves and the school. A really lovely day for everyone!



Trip to Portsmouth Blue Reef Aquarium

What a great day! The students of Hill House School embarked on an educational adventure to the Blue Reef Aquarium in Portsmouth. This visit was more than just a trip; it was an extension of their classroom learning, giving them a hands-on experience with marine life. The visit enabled the young people to focus on the five aims of the Hill House School curriculum:

- **Communication:** The visit provided an excellent opportunity for students to enhance their communication skills. Reading the posters and learning new vocabulary.
- **Self-regulation:** The aquarium's sensory-rich environment helped students practice self-regulation, manage excitement, take turns, follow instructions and stay calm.
- **Resilience:** Facing new and unfamiliar environments and a lot of information required the ability to adapt and stay engaged. The young people demonstrated resilience by adjusting to the situation, seeking help when needed and gradually becoming more comfortable.
- **Increasing Independence:** Young people explored exhibits, read information plaques and engaged with interactive displays independently or in small groups, taking charge of their learning.
- **Discovery:** The visit was a journey of discovery. Students had the chance to deepen their understanding of marine biology, building on what they had learned in the classroom.



Let's have Lunch at Nando's

After an exciting morning at the Blue Reef Aquarium, the young people then enjoyed a delicious lunch at Nando's. The welcoming atmosphere made it the perfect place to relax and share their favourite aquarium moments. The students had fun choosing their meals and placing their orders, which was a great way to practice independence. The friendly Nando's staff made sure everyone felt comfortable and well-served. As they waited for their food, the young people had the opportunity to interact with their friends. The tasty food was a big hit, and many students enjoyed trying new dishes.

Overall, lunch at Nando's was a fantastic end to a fun and educational day. It was a wonderful way for the students to relax, socialize, and reflect on their amazing aquarium visit.



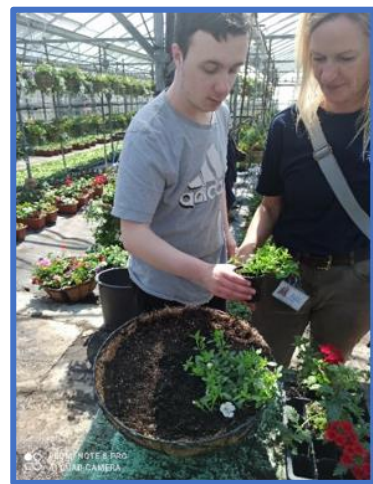
Work experience at Northfields Nursery

This week sixth form students from Hill House School paid a visit to Northfields Nursery in Pennington. There they had the opportunity to work with Adam Gore and staff member Rose to create their own hanging baskets. The students filled their baskets from the compost machine, transported them to the greenhouse workspace where they chose from a selection of flower plugs to plant up their displays. They made holes, inserted the plants and firmed them into place. Once the baskets were complete the students gave them a good watering.

Some of the students were also asked to plant up 'cup and saucer' containers that will be put up on Lymington High Street. Somewhere, secreted on the planter will be the creator's name. We shall be heading to the High Street soon to see where they are!

Some of the hanging baskets were carefully carried back to Hill House and installed in front of our reception building where they will burst into bigger and brighter life as the summer settles in.

There are a number of challenges that are involved when going to work in an unusual environment with different people around you and our students all rose to the occasion admirably and brought home the glorious finished articles. They will be displayed all around Hill House School for students, staff and visitors alike to enjoy





Visit from the Ice Cream Van

The young people had a well-deserved treat when the ice cream van visited HHS one Friday afternoon

Everyone queued up to choose their favourite, using the skills they have learnt in the school café

A perfect way to end the week!





Half term Holiday Club



Today was the first day of the new Hill House Holiday Club! We had a mindfulness theme so there was calming music and lots of spots to relax! There were inflatable bean bag beds or there were yoga mats. The bubble machine was on and this was a big hit. We had a diffuser for essential oils to really help us feel zen!

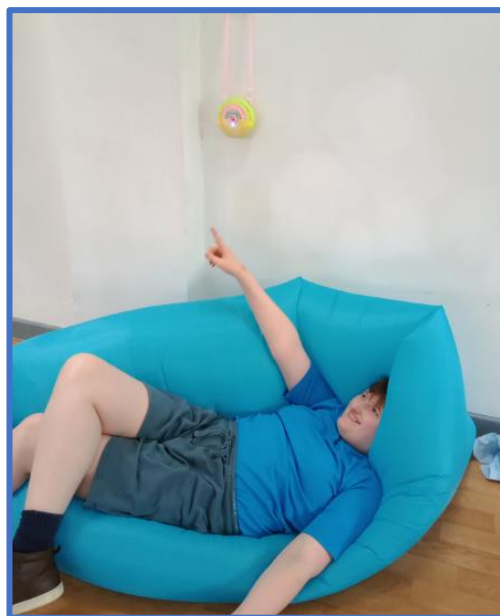




Today's holiday club was all about the inflatable bean bags. Everyone loved these, especially rocking side to side in them. We read stories today, *Room on the Broom* was a firm favourite. We also had cupcakes for snack which was a lovely way to finish our mindful morning!



It was the last day of half term today so we all made the most of everything Holiday Club had to offer. We read every story that we had, lounged in our favourite inflatable bean bags and used the foam floor tiles as a giant jigsaw! We have had some familiar faces that have been each day as well as some new faces. We can't wait to do it all again in the next school holiday!



Exbury Gardens

Young people from two classes had a special day out at Exbury gardens

This was a day of discovery.....an opportunity to explore and learn about the plants and flowers

Everyone did well walking long distances throughout the day. There was even a maze to get lost in!



Hosting trainee teachers



This term HHS hosted 5 trainee teachers from the Southampton Inclusion Partnership
There was an opportunity to learn about the HHS curriculum, speak to key members of the HHS team and spend time in the classrooms
We received some lovely feedback where trainees said that they really valued this opportunity, that they learnt a lot and thoroughly enjoyed their time spent here
We plan to host more trainee teachers during the next academic year

Annual ACoRNS Stakeholders Meeting



This term saw the annual ACoRNS stakeholders meeting. As members of ACoRNS, we were invited to go along and spend the day with other partners from the network
This was a valuable experience as the day was focussed on the impact of research and we were able to reflect on the projects that HHS has been involved in
As a result of these discussions, we have further developed our digital stories at HHS, putting together more information for future providers which explains the value of the stories and also a request for feedback which will help to inform our future work

Celebration Day 2024!

The Hill House celebration day was a perfect way to end the term and indeed the academic year!

The day brought everyone together along with Hill House friends and family

There was live music, games, juggling, giant bubbles, ice cream and plenty of strawberries



There was also a special presentation acknowledging and celebrating individual achievements. These included awarding 14 John Muir Awards, 5 Bronze Duke of Edinburgh awards and a whole host of OCR awards!

Each young person received a personalised goodie bag with a voucher to spend on a choice of their own

The day was such a lovely way to say thank you and well done to everyone!

Celebration Day 2024
Friday 2nd August



10.30 – Arrival of visitors
10.30 – 12.30 – Music for Autism in the school courtyard
10.30 – 12.30 – Sensory Activities and games in the hub / Juniper Hall (led by the therapy team)

12.30 – BBQ lunch

13.30 – 14.00 – Music for Autism in the school courtyard
14.00 – 15.00 – Presentation of awards in the school courtyard (TMs and teachers to present)
15.00 – New Forest Ice Cream bike
15.00 – Circus – juggling and bubbles!
15.00 – 17.00 – Steel “melodic pan man”
16.00 – New Forest Strawberries and Cream
Dinner in the homes as usual

Gift voucher

£20

WELL DONE FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK THIS YEAR!



Student's individual achievements were celebrated. These included;

- * Participating in college activities to help prepare for a move to the sixth form in September
- * Starting to build relationships in college and participating in all work experience activities
- * Going out and about and having a haircut at the barbers
- * Working so hard on resilience and building positive relationships with the chickens!
- * Working so hard on communication skills and starting to use the Talk Pad more often and continuing to learn new symbols
- * Hard work and discovery of colourful semantics that has helped to improve communication
- * Employee of the Month! Amazing work experience at the local pub!
- * For bringing music and enthusiastic energy to everything he does! He brings a smile to everyone's face he meets and has branched out into the community with this!
- * Exploring and trying lots of new activities with a smile on his face!
- * Continuous patience and resilience throughout the term. Brining positivity and courage to all new situations he has encountered
- * Expedition Captain Award! Leading the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions with enthusiasm and curiosity, it was inspiring!
- * Helping with jobs all around the school. Being so helpful and always with a lovely smile!
- * Growth in Friendship skills has been evident through respectful, enjoyable and positive interactions with friends
- * Impressively increased self-expression and feeling more confident to communicate with friends and family. Also demonstrating independence in using the Talk Pad, seeking help when needed
- * Demonstrating an increased independence at home organising her wardrobe and her bedroom. Gaining more confidence to talk about her interests with others which has helped to increase self-esteem
- * Showing great resilience with curiosity and an open mind. Especially notable when out and about visiting Exbury Gardens, Moors Valley and Portsmouth Oceanarium
- * In Discovery, exploring and trying lots of new activities and exploring new hobbies with a smile on her face
- * For his enthusiastic energy to come to class every day! He has grown in his friendship skills, being evident in his positive interactions with friends
- * In Discovery, exploring and trying lots of new activities at Hill House
- * Being helpful in your OT and Land Science sessions
- * Your discovery in the Therapy sessions
- * For always being the first one to participate in an activity
- * Adapting to changes and improving your resilience
- * Always showing an interest in your OT and Land Science sessions
- * For transferring and building upon skills during his volunteer placement at Furzey Gardens which contributed towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He has displayed maturity and resilience working with new staff in a new environment
- * For discovering much more of the natural environment whilst participating with his John Muir Award
- * Bringing enthusiasm to the college and helping friends to use their Talk Pad when greeting each other during tutor times
- * Building resilience and independence in college
- * Remembering to carry your Talk Pad with you and also helping everyone to understand your thoughts and wishes











