



October 2020

Dear Parents, Colleagues and Friends of Broadlands,

How much has changed not only at Broadlands but in the world around us over the past few months. I am extremely grateful to all of you for ensuring the young people here have been supported through these times and how proud of them we are.

September saw us return to some normality in that school was 'open' again. Previously we had been supporting the young people at home. Everyone has settled back into school life extremely well although we are all still getting used to the changes to our routines.

This month also marks a year since I was extremely proud to start my journey as Head Teacher at Broadlands. Reflecting on all we have achieved in this time together in difficult circumstances only excites me for the future and what exciting achievements we can celebrate together.

I hope you enjoy the following updates on some of what has been going on at Broadlands over the past few months. This year a new newsletter will be published every half term. I hope this will keep you more up to date on our achievements and give you a better insight into life at Broadlands Hall School.

Swimming

COVID-19 has brought its challenges with our curriculum as a school who promote learning in our community. However, we have managed to source a new swimming venue to keep us all safe. This also ensures those who attend weekly can continue with this important part of their routine. We are also proud to have already had some of the young people progress through the early stages of the Schools Swimming Award.



Student Council

Our student council has reformed again this year with another round of election campaigns and voting having already taken place. It is really pleasing to see the young people at Broadlands feel their voice is heard through this platform.



Already this year they have introduced a new lunch menu. This process took into consideration everyone's likes and dislikes including a request for Halal meat to ensure everyone can enjoy what's on offer. A copy of the school menu can be requested from the school and will be made available on the website soon.

Linton Zoo Fundraising

During lockdown so many of the business in our local community struggled and one particularly caught the eyes of the students at Broadlands Hall School. Linton Zoo which has provided the young people with so many happy days out and memories were the chosen ones to benefit from some fundraising. Through several activities chosen by the young people themselves they raised almost £300. Their efforts also made local news in The Haverhill Echo of which you can see below.

Thursday, June 25, 2020

www.haverhillecho.co.uk

Students step out of their comfort zones to help zoo

Steve Barton
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Three teenage students at a special school just outside Haverhill have raised almost £300 to help provide food for the animals at Linton Zoo.

The trio, Harry, 13, Jordan, 16 and another student aged 15, are all boarders at Broadlands Hall School, in Little Wratting.

Their head teacher, Shane Rowe, explained what happened.

He said: "They heard of the troubles that Linton Zoo has had feeding animals with no visitors coming through the door (to provide revenue) so they decided to do something about that.

"They did a sponsored silence for one day and a cake sale to the staff and they've been doing 50 exercises a day or a week and they raised just under £290."

The money, which was mainly raised through sponsorship by the school's staff, regular visitors to the school such as therapists and people that the school deals with locally, enabled the students to buy £70 worth of fruit and vegetables and

£200 worth of specific animal feed.

All of it was delivered to the zoo in Hadstock Road last Friday, for which, said Mr Rowe everyone at the zoo was 'extremely grateful'.

All the way through their fundraising challenge, the students were supported by their lead teacher, Sam Munro.

Mr Rowe said that the three students had different abilities and all had autism and special educational needs, making what they achieved even more laudable.

He added: "They all found it particularly difficult, especially the sponsored silence but they managed it and they should be very proud of themselves, as we are, because it is a very good achievement."

Although the school fund-raises regularly throughout the year for well-known national events, such as The World's Biggest Coffee Morning and Children in Need, Mr Rowe said it now hoped to do more for Linton Zoo, especially after seeing how being closed because of the coronavirus pandemic had affected it financially.

He said: "We hope to do a lot more for them in the future."



Broadlands Hall students Harry and Jordan deliver the food to Linton Zoo

Macmillan Cake Sale

Our Charity captain this year was not going to allow COVID-19 to stop us raising money for such a good cause in the form of a socially distancing cake sale. The young people baked during their cooking lessons in the week, and we were also grateful to receive donations from the staff here and in our residential homes. Raising a total of £106.05 is a fantastic achievement and we have many more fundraising events planned this year.



Term Dates 2020/2021

Our term dates have slightly changed for 2020/2021. This was due to staff training planned for last year being postponed due to COVID-19 and the requirement this is completed before October half term. These have been shared with parents but are always available on the school website.

Shane Rowe
Head Teacher

