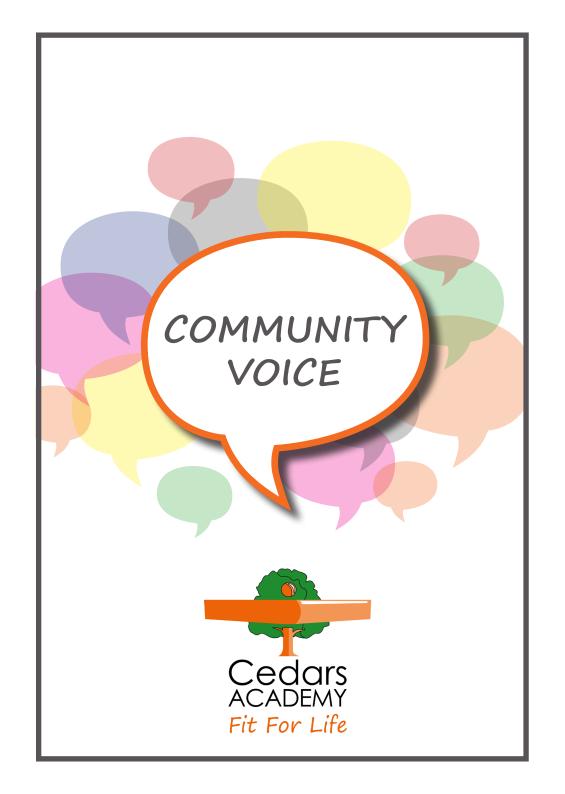




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cedars parents & carers group

This year we have been pleased to welcome a lot new parents on board. We are currently meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, virtually.



- This year we have been pleased to welcome a lot new parents on board. We are currently meeting on the first Wednesday of each month, virtually.
- We have discussed how school have adapted to the COVID situation, working in Bubbles and additional measure's that have been put in place.
- Cedars Parents have shared how impressed they are with how well their children have responded to lockdown, how well the school has worked during the Pandemic and also how grateful they have been to receive the Free School Meal vouchers.
- We have also discussed how to incorporate our community into the opening of our new Liz Neale Hall and Stephen Miller Centre. Parents enjoyed their tour of the new facilities, and were instrumental in planning the opening event.
- More recently we have discussed the proposals for the development of a Therapy Centre at Ivy Lane and the extension of Walker Terrace to accommodate all Key Stage 4 with Post 16. Cedars Parents have discussed how best it would be to involve parents and carers in the consultation process.
- Cedars Parents would like to support the fundraising for the Therapy Centre and are thinking of different ways to raise money for various projects, that include Soft Play Room, Sensory Room, Movement Room, Physio and Speech & Language Suite, Communication Room and Creative Arts Space.
- ▶ The feedback from parents and carers is that they are all appreciate the change of focus in the use of social media, and have really enjoyed how Bloomz is being used.





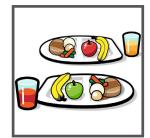


primary student council

On our return to school in September **Primary Students** chose representatives from their classes. Our new representatives were excited to share the views and opinions of their classmates there were lots of smiles that they had been chosen for their new roles.



- Our first meeting on Zoom covered settling into our class bubbles and following new rules i.e. washing our hands when returning to class. Representatives discussed school dinners and how to get feedback and agreed important dates coming up which could be discussed during future meetings.
- Primary Student Council's representatives were presented their own lanyards and became part of the main Representatives display in the main corridor. This was another exciting moment for them, to feel part of the whole school when restrictions have been made due to COVID.
- We have agreed to include both Primary and Senior Councils into different School Improvement Groups. Primary Student Council representatives were not fazed and happily chose which group they would like to be part of.
- In another meeting about 'Improving School Life' we addressed School Dinners with Caron our Cook. We had previously asked all classes to give us feedback from all the children on their views i.e. what they enjoyed, what they would like to see on the menu etc. They came up with fantastic questions and answers that we put to Caron on their behalf. Caron gave feedback to all questions asked. She also stated that all the kitchen staff missed seeing the children, so we thought it might be nice to thank the kitchen staff for their work by designing thank you cards.
- For Children in Need the Improving School Life Group decided to support this great day by delivering ingredients to every class to decorate a spotty biscuit to enjoy while they took part in fundraising activities.
- We decorated the Christmas Tree outside the school we used recycled decorations which were quarantined before using. This was to show our commitment to environmental issues as a group.







senior student council

This year **Senior Student Council** started to meet weekly. As we had to stick to our class bubbles this was done via Zoom. Sometimes this became difficult due to lessons being interrupted. The decision was then taken to meet at the beginning and end of every half term/term.



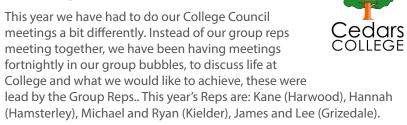
- Student council were split into four groups. These were Environment (Mrs. Richard-son), Rights Respecting Schools (Miss. Scott), School Life (Miss. Lane) and Fundraising/Events (Miss. Morton).
- ▶ The Environment group met with Mr. Dent to discuss the outdoor environment and how this could be developed. A lot of suggestions were made and our ideas shared and discussed. Mr. Dent is in the process of developing these plans with Mr. Vincent and will feedback to the Council after Half Term.
- ▶ The Rights Respecting Schools Group organised a Reverse Advent Calendar. Students brought in items for a local foodbank. The foodbank was overwhelmed at the donations and said that the donations helped a lot of families who were struggling in these very difficult times.
- ▶ The Fundraising/Events Group made a couple of videos showing the amazing transformation of the new Sports Hall and Stephen Miller Centre. We have discussed early plans for the new Therapy Centre and will be part of the decision making groups involved in planning what the new rooms will look like, what they will contain and how they will be used.
- Hopefully once we are no longer under restrictions there will be a lot of fundraising and events that will be able to go ahead to help fund the plans for the new Therapy Centre and outdoor learning environments that we have helped plan.
- We raised money for Children in Need by coming to school in something spotty.
- Student Council spoke to students about how they feel since they have come back to school after the periods of lockdown. Although students miss mixing with their friends they do enjoy coming to school and feel very safe in their Bubbles and around school.







college council



- When students returned in September we were in Bubbles. Unfortunately, this meant we were unable to use communal areas such as the common room, or go out with friends from other Groups at lunch time. In our meetings we discussed that we would like to be able to go out and exercise safely. Many students now go out for daily walks and/or a longer walk further afield via minibus this helps support our physical and mental health.
- ▶ Three of our students have joined the Gateshead Youth Assembly, where they now do virtual meetings instead of attending the GYA.
- We wanted to support Children in Need this year, each Bubble planned something they would do. Some Groups did challenges, and parent/carers were able to donate to the charity online.
- Michael and Ryan have been working with the Rights Respecting School part of the School Council. We set up our own 'Reverse Advent Calendar' in the College Reception – for students to bring in any donations to support the local food bank. This was a huge success!
- We also helped the 'Crisp Packet Project' this winter. We put a box in each class for students and staff to put their empty crisp packets in; these were then washed, dried and posted to the 'Crisp Packet Project'. The charity makes these crisp packets into blankets for the homeless.
- We usually do 'Secret Santa' at Christmas, however this year due to Covid-19, we could not bring in presents for people outside of our Bubble. As an alternative, we decided that students would all donate £1 each, which was matched by the College. We then all received a gift on the last day, which was safely sourced and wrapped by staff.
- In 2021 we plan to look for more charities we can support, and to think of other ways of improving College life.





