

#### SCREEN FREE WEEK AT EAT THAT FROG

January at Eat That Frog was all about **Screen Free Week**. Everyone – learners and tutors alike – set their phones and computers aside for a bit of offline fun. It was a great chance to boost social skills, and try out fresh, hands-on activities away from the digital buzz.



#### **Unplug and Unwind**

In Exeter, our learners picked a country to explore, researched it, and even made posters or presentations.

They got creative in the kitchen too – trying out recipes from around the world, including Katsu curry, sushi, Swedish chocolate cake, and even a special treat, Frog Fancies!

There were plenty of cool activities too. Nuria popped in from Newton Abbot to share her knowledge about Spain, Paul brought along artefacts and chatted about archaeology, Emily ran a fun quiz for everyone, Jamie shared his record player and vinyl collection, and Fran led a lively yoga session.

Plus, our learners enjoyed a bird walk, snapping photos and soaking up nature.











#### Hola, Culture!

During our Screen Free Week in Newton Abbot, Nuria hosted an interactive session on Spanish culture. Learners got a taste of Spain by learning about its traditions, picking up a few basic words and phrases, and even trying out some Spanish treats – from meats and cheeses to alioli and Spanish tortilla. Yum!







#### Ahoy, Maths and Mayhem!

Also during the week, Newton learners and tutors dived into the Pirate Game.

It was a mix of luck, strategy, and a bit of maths – with plenty of adding and subtracting to boot!







At Paignton Centre, learners embraced Screen Free Week by getting back to basics with a mix of fun activities. They tackled practical tasks like cooking and cleaning, took part in real-life maths sessions, and even visited the library to pick up a good old-fashioned book.

There was also some healthy competitive sports and a rewarding environmental beach clean.













# Community Care and Organ Flair

During Screen Free Week, our Plymouth learners got stuck into a community engagement project at the local community centre



based at the Minster Church of St Andrews in Plymouth. They helped tidy up both the garden and the hall for public use. Inside, they trimmed hedges, painted railings, cleaned two kitchens, vacuumed and swept the floors in the historic Prysten House, and polished the sidings.

Outside, the team painted the rails with Hammorite, weeded the plant beds, planted a rosebush, and trimmed the boundary hedges to make the garden neat, tidy and safe for children to play, with a spot of leaf clearing too.



The learner even got a personal lesson on the small 62-pipe organ that's currently in place while the main 112-pipe organ is being serviced.

The curator was so impressed that he invited the learner back to try out the big organ once it's back in shape!

In another highlight, one of our learners, joined the curator of the organ at the Minster Church of St. Andrews to understand the workings of the organ.

They enjoyed an in-depth tour of the organ pipes and learned how the pipes are cleaned and retuned before being put back into use.





Learners from the Newton and Paignton centres attended the Apprenticeship Fair at Sandy Park.

They discovered new career paths, learned about apprenticeship opportunities, and got tips on the application process.

It was a really informative day for both learners and tutors, giving everyone valuable insights into potential employers.







#### Post-16 Pulse

A column for post-16s, written by post-16s. Varying topics with the option to respond to the article or have your say on what topics you would like to see.

I was supported to make gingerbread men. I decided to bake them today, because it has been many years since I have tried them, and I would like to try them again. Especially since, at the time I am writing this, it is currently Christmas, and I would like to get back into the festive spirit. I followed a recipe from BBC.co.uk/food. I was helped by Tom.

I cannot wait to continue baking/cooking in the new year. Cooking and being in the kitchen will be an important skill for me to learn in the future, because then, I will be able to be self-sufficient in my own nutrition, as well as being able to make food for family, friends, and others when I am at home with them. I have only had a slight chunk of experience with cooking in my previous school, such as making cake, pasta and burgers. But now I will have an entire unit dedicated to all of my new cooking skills.

Do tell me what your greatest achievement in the kitchen was. I am quite interested in hearing any food or drink that anyone and everyone has made in the kitchen.

Click here to respond







#### Tayla's Tales of Friendship

Learner, Tayla has been busy creating a children's story book about friendship, using animals to show that anyone can be friends, and that we shouldn't judge others based on their appearance.

Click here to view Tayla's book

#### Flynn's a Web Wonder!

Flynn's been putting in a brilliant effort over the last few months. He breezed through his mandatory unit so he could focus on his web design qualification. In just two weeks, he built an impressive website with hardly any input from his tutor!

He learnt how to set up buttons, hand-animate objects, and even add videos linked to his latest projects with Ollie. Flynn is absolutely chuffed with his work and can't wait to publish his site and show everyone. Look out for the link in another issue of the newsletter.



# Programme Schools





Wow, what an exciting month it's been! January brought a burst of energy to the island as two fantastic groups of learners arrived for an adventure-packed stay at the Villa.

First up was the lively crew from **Sir John Hunt School (pictured above)**, who split into two teams from IES El Calero and IES Casas Nuevas. They quickly became one big family, diving into Spanish lessons, colourful cultural activities, and even getting into the groove with a traditional Folklore Canario dance. One of the highlights was a cheerful farewell breakfast at the Villa where everyone said "hasta luego" and celebrated their new friendships. When they weren't learning, they got hands-on with fun workshops like making coffee, cheese, and even bananas, and had a blast at Aqualand and the amusement park.

After Sir John Hunt's visit, the **Phoenix Bay crew** (pictured right) returned for another round of fun. They enjoyed the cosy vibes of Villa A, complete with a heated pool perfect for a relaxing dip after all the excitement. Their week was packed with activities, including a talent show where Spanish learners showcased their skills, and they even picked up some handy life skills by helping out with household tasks.

Meanwhile, our team has been busy planning even more exciting trips for schools arriving later this year. With loads of learners expected, we're already gearing up for more adventures, ensuring everything is safe and ready to go.





### Council

Student Council members Charlie, Psyx, and Alex participated in their first meeting at the Newton Abbot centre recently. The three learners gathered some thoughts and suggestions from their peers around the centre and collaborated with learners from the other centres to bring new ideas to the table. It was amazing to see the young people taking charge of their meeting and make their voices heard!





## Your Diary

17th - 21st February Half Term

6th March World Book Day

10th - 14th March Sustainability Week

> 7th - 17th April Easter Holidays

18th April
Bank Holiday (Good Friday)

21st April
Bank Holiday (Easter Monday)





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