



# Harmony House



# Newsletter



Issue 1: December 2011



## 'A Dream Come True'



'Harmony House is a dream come true. I have always promoted the need for a facility which will provide real opportunity for young people with disabilities to experience independence and what is required to achieve this. We have lots of ideas about how the centre can be used. It's an exciting development and one I am very proud of being a part of. I have to thank all of those who were involved in its conception and development, including DMBC's Strategic Housing, Children's Services and Aiming High' .

**Mick Wright, Headteacher**



## Opening Ceremony

The idea for Harmony House came from students with disabilities attending a Regional Youth Parliament Assembly in 2011. Students told of their aspirations to be independent and have the same opportunities as other

young people. Their view was backed up by

parents and carers, so Mick Wright, Headteacher at North Ridge Community School, asked Andrea Milner, the then Council Cabinet member for Children and Young People's Services, if she could help this dream come true. Several months and much hard work later, Harmony House was officially opened by Eric Tatton-Kelly, Council Cabinet member for Children and



Young People's Services and Ray Mullis, Council Cabinet member for Housing. Harmony House is now open for all young people with disabilities to experience what it is like to live independently, in the safe surroundings of a house that has the feel of a home. **Joyce Chattin, School Business Manager.**





# Garden Makeover



As the new term started, so did work at Harmony House. The first task was to clear and prepare the front garden, so that turf could be laid. This was done over four sessions, involving students from KS4 and KS5. New turf was laid entirely by the students and blue slate was laid over weed membrane in areas under the windows. I think the results speak for themselves! We are now turning our attentions to the back garden, so that we can get the basics done before the winter sets in. Lessons are already taking place in the garden up to three days per week, and we have held meetings with other schools, including Heatherwood, about sharing our facilities and skills. Pennine View and some other local schools have also expressed an interest in joining us. It has been suggested in view of some vandalism that took place recently, that we hold a coffee and cake morning and introduce local people and neighbours to what we are trying to do at Harmony House.. I have suggested a gardening club in the spring and summer terms and would be grateful of any feedback from those who may be interested.



**Alan Bryan-Peach, Environmental Co-ordinator**

## Independent Living Skills

Harmony House has brought a new dimension to the teaching of life skills for our students. The young people learn how to plan and make their own meals in a home environment. The staff empower the



young people to develop their independent living skills in preparation for the transition into adulthood. The teaching of daily household tasks are taught in a 'real' environment where students have the opportunity to experience problem solving, budgeting and a wider understanding of the responsibilities of living independently. KS3, KS4 and KS5 students at North Ridge Community School have been given the opportunity of enhancing their independent living skills.

**Sue Plant, Assistant Headteacher (Secondary)**

## Sixth Form at Harmony House

The 19<sup>th</sup> July 2011 saw the opening of Harmony House and we'd been given the challenge of doing the buffet for 40 people for the opening ! We rose to the challenge and provided lots of nibbles and plates full of our now famous strawberry Cream Scones which the students served to our guests. Lots of smiles were the only thanks we needed and we got plenty of those. Since then some students of the 6<sup>th</sup> form use Harmony House every week . Exploring the house and finding what was there, was so exciting on that first day. We went out into Bentley and bought Fish and Chips for lunch...lovely !!! It's a good job we gave it a good clean and a polish before we left and got rid of the chippy smell ready for the next people.. Since then we have had lots of fun learning how to look after a home , making our own lunches, working in the garden and just chilling in front of the T.V. It's been great.

**Christine Djezzar, Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form).**





# Pupil Page



Our pupils are now regularly using Harmony House. These are the thoughts of our pupils.

I make some drinks.  
I dry up pots.  
I make our own bed.  
I made beans on toast.  
I wash up the plates.  
We have got to do things for ourselves at Harmony House.

**By Bradley Martin - Year 11 (Class 8P)**



I did some beans and toast.  
We do some washing up.  
We do dinner at Harmony House.  
I made the bed.  
I really like it there.

**By Jamie Bates - Blanford - Year 11 (Class 8P)**



I did some gardening.  
I am learning to do things by myself.

**By Jordan Haddon - Year 11 (Class 8P)**



We go to Harmony House to help Alan and to clear the garden.  
We tidy the garden.  
I help Alan dig the garden.  
We help to get the dinner ready and to wash dishes after.  
We make sandwiches and toast. We make the tea.  
We do some housework like cleaning the windows

**By Laura Mellor - Year 14 (Class 9R)**

We go to Harmony House on Friday's, once a week.  
I clean the windows.  
I prepare the food and mop the floor.  
We Hoover the floor, we wash up the pots we have done our dinner with.  
We go into the garden and sweep up.  
I have planted some bulbs

**By Nicole Bolstridge - Year 14 (Class 9C)**





# House Lettings & Stop-Overs



Harmony House is now available for lettings. Please contact Mrs J Chattin, School Business Manager on 01302 720790 for further information.

Type of Letting	Letting Charges
<b>Educational / Curriculum Studies</b> <b>KS3, KS4 &amp; KS5 Students</b>	£25.00 per hour session £100 per day session
Short Stay Breaks / Stop Over's for Students, Families & Carers	£100 for each overnight stay (6pm until 10am - Friday / Saturday &
Youth Club Facilities Private Hire / Functions	£3.50 per child - £25.00 per min session

## Christmas Competition

The first student to correctly complete the Christmas Word Search and return it to North Ridge Reception will win a selection box. The words on the right are to be found within the word search - Good Luck!!

H	O	L	L	Y	C	N	P	H	O	K	E	O	C
E	V	E	F	T	L	R	A	Q	A	I	Z	A	B
L	A	X	F	P	E	N	M	C	N	P	R	S	D
B	A	I	L	S	W	O	I	A	O	O	P	I	G
U	E	K	E	I	J	R	C	B	L	V	S	Y	S
A	I	N	P	V	A	T	A	S	H	C	N	R	E
B	T	W	L	Y	O	H	B	P	A	T	E	X	A
S	Z	P	A	I	Q	P	L	H	S	K	V	E	S
T	U	R	K	E	Y	O	A	Z	C	V	L	M	A
F	I	A	W	Y	D	L	Z	A	R	O	D	L	N
L	V	R	D	U	V	E	R	Q	P	A	B	A	T
A	A	M	R	L	S	C	R	E	E	R	T	T	A

**TURKEY**  
**HOLLY**  
**RUDOLPH**  
**NORTH POLE**  
**HAPPY**  
**CRACKERS**  
**TREE**  
**PRESENTS**  
**BAUBLE**  
**IVY**  
**SANTA**  
**CAROLS**

