

# Frewen College Newsletter

Autumn Half Term - October 2023

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# **Dear Parents**

I can't believe half-term is upon us already!

Time flies when you are busy, and there has been lots going on at Frewen in the last couple of months. You will be able to read about this on the following pages.

On top of all the usual things, we were highly commended for another award - our fourth in three years. You probably already know about this, but we are not so cool as not to mention it in the half-termly newsletter.

We also underwent an unannounced Ofsted boarding inspection. It only seemed like a few months since the last one - and in fact it was. This was our second in nine months. These inspections usually come around Christmas time, but officially they can happen any time during the school year. We are not due for another until 2024/5. We cannot share the judgement until the report is verified, but it seemed to go well, and we will share the outcome with you when it is published in the next few weeks.

The eighteen new students who joined us in September have settled in well and are enjoying school. Although the time has flown, it feels as if they have been with us much longer than the six weeks since the beginning of term. Indeed, the summer holidays feel as if they were a lifetime ago. So perhaps time is elastic: in some ways, it has flown, in others it seems to have slowed down.

I hope that the half-term break will not fly by too quickly for you, and that you all have an enjoyable and relaxing half term.

We look back to seeing your children back in school on Monday, 30th October.

Best wishes

Nick Goodman Principal



# Prep School by Debbie Fraser

It appears we haven't stopped for breath at Prep School this term! We warmly welcomed some new pupils and began this school year by using the pool. This was a fantastic way to build water confidence and to keep cool in the hot start to September.

We have been busy immersing ourselves in our castle topic; using (amongst other things) drama, art and a trip to Leeds Castle to inspire our writing.



Celebrating Harvest has been exciting too this term. We have visited Dexter's farm to gain an understanding of where our food comes from and what farm life is like.

We managed to find our way to a secret pumpkin patch in the village, where we were encouraged to pick, name and carry our own pumpkin back to school! We celebrated Harvest at Northiam Church, where we sang hymns and read a poem.





It's been a super sporty time too, as we have been practising for the annual Frewen Cross Country, have participated in the Cluster 5 aside Football Tournament and sports leaders training.

# National Dyslexia Week!

2 to 8 October 2023



We have also been celebrating National Dyslexia Week. This year's theme was 'Uniquely You'. We explored and rejoiced our various talents and superpowers and created our own portraits to reflect the fact we are all wonderfully different.

# Boarding by Hannah Lewis

Brickwall House and The Warren have had a tremendous first half term in Boarding!

This term, the Boarding Community has welcomed six new students and we are delighted to see that they are settling in so well!

One of our new students has says that Boarding at Frewen 'is like a family'. Their favourite weekend trip has been Paddleboarding in Rye. They are accomplished many activities and so it was great to see them demonstrate their skills so confidently!

Monday's through to Thursday's we have an array of activities to keep the Boarders amused and stimulated as well as the opportunity to further progress in their allrounded success. A particular highlight being an evening with James Fielden, a football commentator based in London with experience across television and radio. James spoke to the boarders about careers in media, as well as letting them into a few sporting secrets.

Other weekend activities have included pottery painting, fishing, falconry and going to the movies! The falconry experience, put on for us by Joes Bows, was a tremendous success! The Boarders were fortunate to handle and learn about an array of birds within our stunning grounds!

The competition was tight in catching the most fish at Hawkhurst Fishery, but the title went to Sophia, who was delighted that she caught eight fish and a tree this past weekend! This was the first time that she had been fishing – what an incredible achievement! Students have also demonstrated their independence by travelling together and managing their food budgets, trying an array of world foods.

Well done to our Boarders for an incredible half term! We can't wait to see you back after a well-deserved half term break!





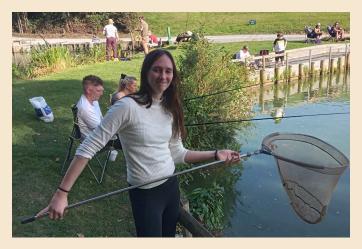




# **Boarding** by Hannah Lewis

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# Fishing Trip at Hawkhurst Fishery







### Zoom Meeting with Football Commentator James Fielden

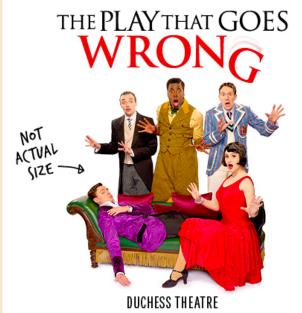
On Tuesday 10th October the Boarders had an opportunity to have a Zoom Meeting with Football Commentator James Fielden. James works for Talksport, Gravity Media, Strongman to name just a few. The conversation included questions regarding how he got into sports commentary, tips for pursuing their career 'goals' and memorable experiences in the Media industry. We hope this opportunity further inspires our Boarders to work towards the career of their dreams!

### Coming soon.....

### Theatre trip to see 'The Play That Goes Wrong'

On Sunday 26th November the Boarders are going to see 'The Play That Goes Wrong' at The Duchess Theatre in London. This is a multi-award winning play and the longest running comedy in the West End so we are delighted to offer our Boarders this fantastic opportunity!

### THE LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY IN THE WEST END



# English by Rebecca Lowe

# **National Poetry Day 2023**

On the 5th of October, the English department celebrated National Poetry Day and this year's theme was nature.

Key Stage 3 students took this opportunity to get out of the classroom and explore the changing seasons in the Frewen grounds. They identified trees and branches and tried to find an object on which to base their poem.

They then headed back to the classroom and produced some quite amazing poetry. Unfortunately, there is not the space here to share them all, but I have added a small selection below.



Looking up in the arboretum

# **Falling Leaves**

Surrounded by the falling leaves, Scent of pine trees, autumn breeze The feel of cool air on my skin The feel of stillness deep within The soft bark of the redwood tree The wood, the breeze, the trees and... me.

# By DAVID COSGROVE

# All Must End

The leaves were dancing in the wind. With summer gone, the fall begins. Some are yellow, some are green. The wood is still, the air – serene. As the leaves and cold descends I know that all that is must end.

# By ETHAN HEWITT

# English by Rebecca Lowe

# You are my Sunshine

Oh yellow leaf so bright and clean.

So beautiful but rarely seen.

Hidden behind thousands of orange leaves.

You are the leaves that every tree needs.

Your brightness lights up life like a runway.

You often line our highways.

But now your home has been taken away.

New houses are put in your place.

So you have to elegantly fly away.

# **By LIZZIE EVANS**

# Macbeth

In preparation for the English literature exam, year ten students have been studying 'Macbeth' this term. Despite, its tricky language, Shakespeare's popular tragedy has not proved insurmountable for our young academics.

Ronnie Godfrey says "It was so interesting. I now feel that I want to know a lot more about Shakespeare and his works".

After the half term break, year ten will be delving deeper into the English literary canon and studying 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens.



# Stone Cold' by Robert Swindells

This half term year 9 have been studying the novel 'Stone Cold'. With the central theme of homelessness, the story follows the protagonists, Link a young 16 year old homeless boy and the antagonist Shelter, an ex-military murderer. This challenging novel has been enjoyed by all and provided the basis for some thought-provoking and topical debates.

Hayden Bradley says, "this story covers an interesting topic."

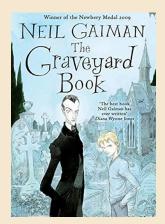


# The Graveyard Book Year 8

Ms Taylor-Wade's Year 8 group are currently studying 'The Graveyard Book' by Neil Gaiman as their class reader. After all his family is killed by an assassin called Jack, Bod is taken in by the residents of the local graveyard. The book follows his life and journey from child to adult.

Raphael Bedwei-Majdoub says "I like the adventure in this novel."

Isaac Colquhuon says, "I like the character of Silas best as he appears and disappears."



# Maths by Charlene Classen

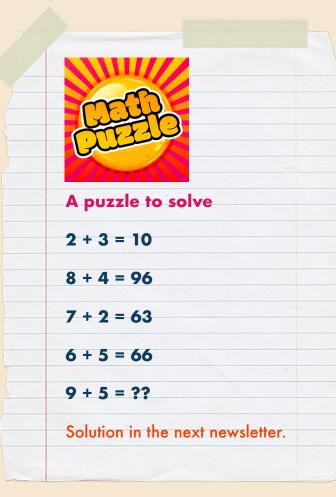
The Maths department would like to welcome back all students, old and new, to the maths lessons. A special congratulations to last year's year 11 on their Maths results and hope that this year's year 11s and some sixth formers are ready to work hard and continue in the same vein.

Maths isn't always easy, and you should expect to struggle at times. Remember -FAIL – First Attempt In Learning.

We all make mistakes and here at Frewen, we help you on your journey towards succeeding – easy as 1, 2, 3 ... no matter which angle you look at it from, we'll transform you and life can be as easy as π.

The Maths department is proud to show off their 1:1 intervention room.

Your Maths teacher would be happy to help so do ask for help if any problems need solving.





Year 11 maths classes have been working really hard, preparing for their mock exam and we are looking forward to seeing the fruits of their labours with fabulous mock results next term.

Good luck!

# ICT by Steve Booth

We have been pleased to launch a 'technology assistant' initiative whereby student volunteers help out with checking laptops, cleaning keyboards and performing other tech-related tasks. We've been grateful to Ben and Seb who have done a fantastic job at lunchtimes, keeping things running as they should. Please see Mr. Booth if you would like to get involved.



# Science by Scott Wassell

Welcome to a new academic year in the science department.

The year 7's have had their first opportunity to take lessons inside and outside the lab. We can see them using recycled materials to replicate structures found in cells as a large collage and as individual specialised cells.





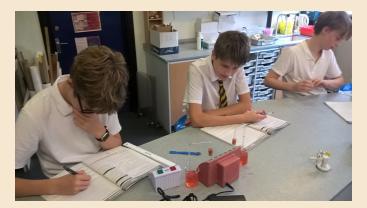
The year 8's recently modelled to digestive system. Here Juma is adding the "acid" to the stomach.





The year 10's have been busy with them undertaking several of the required experiments needed for their GCSE's since coming back from the summer holidays. Here we can see the set up to measure the rate of respiration in larvae in biology. They have recently done the ever-popular heart dissection.

The year 11's enter their final year and have made their way through some chemistry calculations and working out densities of substances.





# Art by Duncan Sangster

# Black History Month in the Art Department



In a society where the contributions of Black people are often marginalised or overlooked, Black History Month provides an opportunity to shed light on the incredible achievements of some of the most influential figures in society. Black art is a powerful tool for telling the story of Black people and their experiences. From the Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights Movement to Black Lives Matter and beyond, Black artists have used their talents to create works that reflect their community, their culture, and their struggles.

As part of Black History Month, year 7 will look at and respond to the work of Althea McNish and Chakaia Booker.

**McNish** (1924 – 2020) was amongst the first, if not the first, designer of African-Caribbean descent to achieve international recognition. Her designs injected muchneeded colour and life into the post-war fashion and textiles industry from the 1950s onwards.

**Booker** (born 1953) is an internationally renowned and widely collected American sculptor known for creating monumental, abstract works from recycled tires and stainless steel for both the gallery and outdoor public spaces.



**McNish** (1924 - 2020)



**Booker** (1953)

It is hoped that by responding to these artists, students will find much inspiration and enjoyment, whilst broadening their knowledge and understanding of 20th century practitioners.

# PE by Jo Hambleton

This term we started with 2 team building days for Year 7 and Year 8. This was a great opportunity to meet and get to know new students and really get to know each other in a variety of activities. We aimed to build resilience, develop teamwork and also push students outside there comfort zones.

Both groups had the opportunity to take part in a boulder activity at Chimera climbing centre. It was amazing to see the determination of students to try different course and push the boundaries of their fears. I was so proud to watch all students achieve something, whether that was climbing to the top of the middle rock or just getting 1 metre off the ground.









Year 7s then had the opportunity to make some gnomes and work on knife skills with Ms Hurford Jones. They loved the freedom of being able to use knives (safely) and use their creativity to create some unique gnomes. Year 8 had an action-packed afternoon in the woods where we played lots of team building games and enjoyed a nice walk around the parklands.

Well done to all the students for taking part and having a positive day!



### Games

After half term we will be doing the following options in games

Horse Riding, Swimming, Rugby and Fitness.

All students will have signed up for there sport already. Please make sure your child brings the correct clothes for the sport. As we get to winter lots of warm layers is essential. They also need gum shields for Rugby.

# Occupational Therapy by Lucy Tait

We are settling back into the new term, and really enjoying listening to all the fun the students have had over the summer break. We were delighted to come back to a totally refurbished OT room, which has already been used extensively over this half term. We are very grateful to the maintenance crew for working so hard to provide us with such a professional and functional new space.

### All things sensory Why do we have a swing in the room?

A very commonly asked question... We actually have lots of different attachments for our suspension point. This particular sensory swing is called the **platform swing**.

# Here are some of the reasons we use it in Occupational Therapy sessions:

- Balance and coordination: weight shifting to develop core strength and coordination.
- Posture: The sensory motion helps to stretch and strengthen the muscles of the back and neck
- Motor skills: It provides a safe and controlled environment to practice and develop gross motor skills.
- Vestibular rich input- The vestibular system plays a key role in sensory processing, and the gentle spinning motion of this sensory swing helps to stimulate this system, improving overall sensory integration.
- Proprioceptive input: The sensation of the swing's movement against the body provides deep pressure input to the joints and muscles, helping to improve proprioception and body awareness.
- Reduces anxiety and stress: Gentle linear and rotational motion often has a calming effect and can reduce anxiety and stress



Lucy successfully completed her PG Cert in Sensory Integration with first class honours and has gained the title of 'Sensory Integration Practitioner'.



The sensory integration education site is currently offering the following Free course - Understanding Sensory Processing and Integration in Children (For Parents and Carers). It aims to:

Help you better understand the senses and how we process information from our senses

Introduce you to what sensory issues can look like in a child's behaviour and engagement, and

Give you some ideas on how to support your child's sensory needs at home.

Understanding Sensory Processing and Integration in Children (sensoryintegrationeducation.com)

# Speech & Language Therapy by Amanda Smith

# Catering by David Quye

Thank you to all of the students who supported the first opening of the school shop by buying some items. It was brilliant for the students who had worked so hard doing the market research, sourcing and pricing the stock and all whilst working in a team and practising their functional communication skills. As it went so well and provides some of our students with such a brilliant opportunity to use the social communication skills that are practised in Speech and Language Therapy, we will be continuing after half term. Please see below for the dates it will be open and all relevant information.

Many thanks,

Amanda Smith and Lisa York.



A Quiet term for Catering. We have made a few changes inspired by a discussion at the start of the term with Katie Skinner.

Our menus are now highly visible, and we have moved our photo menu to behind the servery. This is to make us more accessible to all our students and staff.

On the cooking front we look forward to our World porridge day, 10th October. This is to remind us that there are people in the world far worse off than ourselves who do not have access to the food and shelter we all sometimes take for granted. All money raised will go to UNICEF.



We return with Halloween and the Bonfire night. Lets just hope for better weather than last year!

Just to put peoples mind at rest, We have bought the Turkeys etc for Christmas and as this newsletter goes out Tracey will be working her magic with the Christmas Cake. As I write this its 78 Days to Christmas.

Have a good break everyone.

David and Team.

# DT by Marea Saunders

We have welcomed a keen group of new Y7s into the workshop this term. They have been learning about working in wood and have been using these skills to make an aroma fruit out of pine. They have been using some of the hand tools and have also learnt how to safely use the pillar drill.

The Y8s have been learning about simply electronic circuits and how different components can be combined to make an alarm circuit. They have all had a go at soldering, and for many of our students it is the first opportunity to do this. They have had much fun carrying out the evaluation of their final project testing how loud the buzzer is. Apologies to our Y8 families for the noise nuisance coming home before half term!





The Y9s have been learning about mechanics and the use of lever and they have put this knowledge to good use in designing and developing a bottle opener out of recycled hardwood. They are concentrating on completing the bottle opener to a high-quality finish using the skills they have learnt in Y7 & Y8.



We have welcomed 7 Y10 students to the GCSE course this term and we have started by looking at the need to work with accuracy and high-quality finish of practical work. For some students it means changing the way they work as it is not always the first to finish that will get the higher marks. They have been completing some technical drawings to help them throughout the course and particularly in their final project next year. On the theory side we have looked at how technology affects our everyday life. We have just started looking at environmental issues.

The Y11 GCSE students are several months into their final project, many choosing to work on the exam board theme of charities looking at developing a product to educate about the charity or to raise money.

# News from the Garden by Daniel Le Cornu

# **Autumn Fruit & Vegetables Harvest**

We have had a very successful year in the vegetable garden. They are located at prep and are looked after as part of the garden club and on the grounds and are looked after by the garden team and green frewen. The vegetable plots are organic and use the no-dig method of soil cultivation. The pumpkins will be on sale this week beginning (9/10/2023).

# **Polytunnel Update**

After the completion of the polytunnel restoration, the new nursery is beginning to fill up with plants. Many of the plants used in the borders are grown on site from seeds and cuttings. The much-improved growing conditions will make this work all the more successful.





# Future Plans 2023 / 2024

The chestnut walk restoration

The chestnut (Castanea sativa) walk at the top field/adjacent to the football pitch is in need of restoration work. The trees need the basal shoots cut away, which over the years have become quite overcrowded and could eventually damage the main trunks and take energy from the tree itself.

There's a lot of dead branches in the tree crown's and some of these will be removed, care will be taken in doing this as some of the upright dead branches and main trunks are an excellent habitat for bats!



# News from the Garden by Daniel Le Cornu

# Students veg plots

There are eight new mini raised beds in place behind the polytunnel. These will hopefully be used by green frewen to grow fruit and vegetables of the students choice.



# Native hedgerow

The garden team have successfully obtained 420 saplings of native hedgerow / tree species as part of the Woodland Trust trees for school's programme! The saplings will be delivered in March and planted in the parkland along the roadside to extend the native hedgerow planing already in place.

# Wildlife pond

The wildlife pond will be cleared and planted up over winter. Planting will include :

- Mares tail
- Papyrus grass
- Hemp agrimony
- Iris

All these plants prefer the damp conditions around the pond and will provide a haven for wildlife. Mares tail (Equisetum hyemale)



Papyrus grass (Cyperus papyrus)

Papyrus grass (Cyperus papyrus)



Hemp agrimony (Eupatorium cannabinum)

lris (Iris pseudacorus)

Iris (Symphyotrichum spp.)









# Sixth Form by Hazel McCalvey

**Congratulations** to all Sixth Form students who took their exams last summer – we were able to celebrate some excellent results including:

- Esme Distinction\* in Art & Design
- Tallulah Distinction\* in Health & Social Care
- Taylor Merit in Public Services
- Joe Merit in Sports Studies
- Josh Merit in ICT

In September we welcomed our largest new cohort of students in year 12 with students studying a range of different subjects including:

Child Care

Art

Media

**Business Studies** 

**Public Services** 

Performing Arts

# 42 **FRESHWATER** August 2023

### Many hands make light work

Big catfish are renowned for fighting hard, so when **Jake Hesmer** and his friend **George** visited Cackle Hill Fishery they hit on the idea of team fishing to improve their chances of landing a monster. On their first night the tactic paid off with a fish of 55lbs gracing the mat but it was the following day that it really proved its worth when the pair landed this leviathan of 72lbs. We also welcomed Jack to our TA team in September. Jack has experience of working with young people with SEND as well as having a keen interest in military history and volunteers for the Cadet Force as well.

D	ates for your diary:
	sday 7th November -
GC	CSE English resit (Paper 1)
	nesday 8th November -
GC	CSE Maths resit (Paper 1)
Thu	rsday 9th November -
GC	CSE English resit (Paper 2)

Friday 10th November -GCSE Maths resit (Paper 2)

# Other exciting news....

Students Jake and George have been featured in 'Freshwater Informer' magazine, after catching a 72lbs monster catfish! Well done, both!

# **Fishery Reports**



### At The National College, we provide everything educators and trusted adults need to strengthen, manage and evidence their professional, and personal development, in one place, on one platform. This auide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further information and resources.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about NCER

Data collected for ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) shows an increase in 11 to 17-year-olds experimenting with vaping: from 7.7% in 2022 to 11.6% in 2023. It's concerning that these age-restricted products are getting into the hands of under 18s as most contain nicotine, which can be detrimental to brain development and cause long-term addiction. Some schools have reported students having their focus in lessons affected by nicotine cravings; vaping in school toilets; and even trying vapes found in their local park. Raising awareness of the risks among young people could help to prevent these problems from escalating and reduce the number of young vapers.



# NICOTINE ADDICTION

Car Since they were initially developed to help people stop smoking, the vast majority of vape liquids contain nicotine. Not only is this a highly addictive stimulant, but it can also have detrimental effects on brain development in the under-25s. Nicotine can decrease the ability to pay attention, weaken impulse control, affect mood and increase the likelihood of substance addiction as an adult. cC

# WHAT IS VAPING?

Vapes contain a liquid (vape juice/e-liquid) that is heated by a battery and evaporates, creating a chemical vapour which the user inhales. They can be **disposable** (once the liquid or battery runs out, the vape is thrown away) or **rechargeable** (the user replaces the liquid and recharges the battery on demand). Most vape liquids contain nicotine and other chemicals.

# LACK OF AWARENESS

• \*

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dar Antonia

A proportion of young people tend to view vapes as harmless, mainly because of the products' appearance and the perception (often strengthened on social media) that "vaping is cool" and on trend. In many instances, young people don't fully appreciate the concept of addiction: that is, they aren't adequately aware of the risk of becoming hooked on nicotine before trying a vape.

### WIDER HEALTH CONCERNS

Studies are already showing c link between vaping and oral health problems such as tooth decay and gum disease. This is because vaping reduces the amount of saliva in the mouth, while increasing bacteria – resulting in bad breath and a build-up of plaque. There are also concerns that, in some users, vaping could lead to the e also concerns that, in some uping could lead to the ment of asthma, a persistent nd breathing difficulties.

### **UNREGULATED VAPING** PRODUCTS

The number of retailers willing to sell vapes to under-18s is a worry, as the chance of these products being unregulated (and therefore containing illegal chemicals and higher levels of nicotine) is high. A related concern is that the mechanisms inside unregulated products are unlikely to have been tested and safety checked – presenting a possible fire risk if the liquid and battery come into contact.

### SCARCE INFORMATION

The lack of information about the ingredients and potentially harmful chemicals in a vape is troubling. Some vape fluids (unregulated in the UK) contain traces of nuts, which can cause ted in which can co huts, which can co action or anaphy nedical warnings hedical warnings an shock

g – with only foun<u>d on the</u> I disclaimers being fou es of the <u>various brands</u>

### **VAGUE INGREDIENTS LISTS**

arly research has sugg

The National College

C: Many vape liquids have been found to contain 'heavy' metals such as lead, tin, nickel and (in some cases) mercury – all of which are toxic. These metals often take the form of tiny shards inside a device's liquid tank, which are then inhaled into the body. Some media reports have suggested these metals are particularly prevalent in illegally imported vapes which don't comply with UK regulations.

POTENTIAL TOXICITY

### UNCLEAR LONG-TERM CONSEQUENCES

e liquids in vapes also contain vents, which can create carcinogens the point of evaporation. Vapes were y introduced into the UK in 2005 – and, cause of the relatively short timeframe olved, there is insufficient medical dence to assess the long-term harms it regular inhalation of these chemical envice of the human body. uids might have on the human body.

4

### ATTRACTIVE PACKAGING

The packaging of many disposable vapes is very appealing to young people, requently echoing the colours and flavours of the sweets or fizzy drinks they're used to buying. There's a relative lack of regulation around vape marketing, and vaping is often depicted positively on social media – which can lead young people to develop favourable views of vaping and overlook the possible harms.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

In the UK alone, around 5 million disposable vapes go to landfill every week. Due to such significant numbers of these products not being

components ry and a chemical toxic risk to the the ecosystem and wildlife predominantly made of not naturally decompo

### Meet Our Expert

Run by the Cambridgeshire and Peterbo (commissioned by Cambridgeshire Cou embed a proactive lary schools in disc





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# st michael's hospice



# Saturday 21st October, 10am - 12pm

St Michael's Hospice, Upper Maze Hill, St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0LB

Join us at our spooktacular family friendly event, but look out for the witch! Follow the trail around the Hospice garden, hunt for tokens and receive a thrilling reward. Discover the name of the witch's cat for the chance to win a ghostly prize! Children £3.50 and adults £1.50 (refreshments included).



For more information call the Fundraising team on **01424 456396** or email **fundraising@stmichaelshospice.com** 

Registered charity number 288462



www.stmichaelshospice.com