



YOUNG CARERS@ECC NEWSLETTER

STUDENT & FAMILY VOICE

At the end of last year, I conducted some student voice, talking to our students in person as well as an online questionnaire. I wanted to make sure I really understand the best way to support our Young Carers and their families.

I also want to find a way to speak to you, the families of our Young Carers, to better understand what you need from me as Young Carer Lead, or the school as a whole. I recognise that for a lot of you, it is not easy for you to come in to school for a meeting in person. Therefore, I would like to start with a simple online form, to see what you feel is the most important things you want me to work on, as well as what the biggest challenges are for you in terms of interacting with school.

If you can, please fill out this form [Young Carer Family Voice - Autumn 26 – Fill in form](#) and send your feedback to me.

There was a lot of important information and feedback I was able to gather from the student voice, and it has allowed me to recognise that our Young Carers are mostly incredibly proud of their caring role and take their responsibilities very seriously. Many also said that it is caring teachers and friends which helps them feel like they belong at ECC, but that there was still more need for awareness within the school of what a Young Carer is.

I also know that a huge issue for our Young Carers is completing homework regularly and (for some) always being to school on time. This is something I am working on as a case-by-case basis, as I know that all of your situations are different. Please do get in touch and let me know if you feel that there is something that would help you/your child to reduce the number of negatives they may be getting unfairly.

TRIP TO DEVON CLIFFS



Last year, some of you were able to be involved in Haven holiday park's pilot scheme to put together a unique opportunity for Young Carers to be treated to a free day full of activities just for them.

In April, it all came to a head with Haven general managers from across the country coming to Devon to support ECC's Young Carers. And they enjoyed a brilliant day out, undertaking archery, pizza making, pottery painting, high ropes and much more. It was such a success that we are already planning another trip later this school year.

Over the summer holidays, a trial was run for families of Young Carers to have the opportunity to access some of the activities at Devon Cliffs. While some of you were able to make use of this offer, we recognise that it didn't fit everyone's needs, I am hoping to work on that for next summer.

In the meantime, I am trying to get some free tickets for you to some of the panto performances that run at Devon Cliffs – if this is something you would be interested in, please could you email me to say you are interested and what times of day/days of the week work best, so that we have an idea of the numbers that are likely to want the opportunity, as well as when would be more suitable for our Young Carer families, and I will send out more details once they have been confirmed.



Staff Training on Young Carers

Behind the scenes, I have delivered training to all staff, both last year and this year. The training was about what it means to be a Young Carer and I have shared with staff which students in our school are Young Carers.

I hope that this makes it easier for teachers to see who our Young Carers are, for example when doing the register and when looking at student data.

But this also means that we can be looking at the trends of what behaviour points are being given to Young Carers, when school is missed more often etc, and try to target support for those who need it.



THE NEXT FUN THING

I have been able to secure a grant through Tesco's Fruit and Veg scheme for me to spend on our Young Carers!

We are limited with what we are allowed to use it for, but in the week before Christmas, I will be taking Young Carers out of a lesson to create a "Winter Harvest Box".

Students will decorate their box and select some items to fill it with to take home.

I want to make sure that our Young Carers have a chance to do something fun and relaxing before the holidays as a group.

If you have suggestions for other ways we can make use of this grant in a way that would benefit our Young Carer families the most, please do share them with me!

Please Reach Out!

With the school holidays upon us again, we know that this can be a very challenging time of year for some families.

Please reach out if you have any questions or need any support and are not sure who to speak to, I am always here to help.

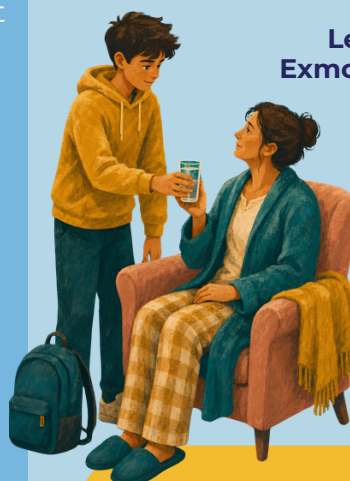
I hope you all have a fantastic break, and look forward to seeing all our Young Carers again in November.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Dumbleton

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Lead for Young Carers
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Help Outside of School

To find out more about what young carers do and for the Support and Assessment tool, visit the **Devon Young Carers website** or find out more information via **Bridgit Care**.