<u>Inter-School Sport at The Haven</u>

In July 2021 we joined the North Staffordshire Special Schools Sports Association. This has given us fantastic opportunities to travel around the area and to compete with other young people in a range of sports. These experiences have been really valuable – here are some of the highlights....

8/7/21 – Staffordshire Cricket Tournament at Newcastle and Hartshill CC





We were a late entry to this event, having only heard about it two days before! One quick training session later and we found ourselves out on a field in hot sunshine, not sure what to expect. For most of the team, this was the first taste of inter-school competition and nerves were jangling. However, the other schools made us very welcome and the students grew into the competition as the day went on, coming second overall.

The Haven had the sporting bug...

24/11/21 – Indoor Athletics at Fenton Manor



This was our first indoor competition and we only took a small team. The students competed in a number of events where they had to test their skills in running, jumping and throwing against around ten other teams. Despite having to work so hard to make up the numbers, we finished third overall.

9/2/22 – Futsal Tournament at Biddulph Leisure Centre



Our first ever football tournament. We gave a good account of ourselves against some skilful and very physical opposition, finishing third overall. And we now had a flag!

9/3/22 – Indoor Cricket at Fenton Manor





Another new experience for us – indoor cricket takes a bit of getting used to. Our team soon realised that they could play tactically rather than just try to whack the ball and did really well, finishing 2^{nd} overall – and bringing home our first medals!

6/4/22 – Basketball at Fenton Manor



Another new sport for us and a steep learning curve. We played a series of games against a very well-drilled Watermill School. Despite giving everything, we came out on the losing side this time.

29/6/22 – Football at Kemball School



We answered an invitation to play football against Kemball School. It turned into quite a big occasion, with most of their school turning out to support. Despite the pressure of being the away team, we came out as winners!

13/7/22 – Staffordshire Cricket Tournament at Newcastle and Hartshill CC



This was the second time we had entered this event so went in feeling much more confident. As the tournament had grown from the previous year, schools were divided into two groups. We found ourselves in the stronger of the two and, despite playing extremely well, were unlucky to finish third. We then comfortably won our play-off game to finish fifth overall.

30/9/22 – Football at Coppice School



Coppice School invited us over to play on their brand new amazing astroturf pitch. Despite being a very new team and having to get used to each other very quickly, the boys performed really well and ran out 4-1 winners.