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| NIGHT SCHOOL |

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| **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT:**  Night School is a biannual after-dark event that takes place in the school grounds and local vicinity in November and January. Initially conceived to give our students the kind of experiences those in mainstream have during their teenage years (namely being out and about with friends after dark), it has developed a wider thematic remit and now aims to expose our students to a wide range of social and cultural experiences than is common in their daily lives. Staff-led activities are thoughtfully planned to engage, excite, and inspire students, and are carefully supported by our teaching assistants to enable all students to access them.  Themes may include (but are not limited to):   * Light * Sound * Space * The natural world   Activities may include (but are not be limited to):   * Cooking on an open fire * Making movies * Sharing ghost stories * Star gazing * Musical performances * Visiting local places * Sharing in whole-school events (e.g. fireworks). * Club night |

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| **THE GOOD PRACTICE IN DETAIL (how it improved outcomes for pupils)**  Night school aims to expose our children to new experiences to enable them to widen the social skills, understanding, and knowledge. Risk is an inherent part of the event. For example, those students with additional physical needs or visual impairments may find moving around after dark in the wood a challenge – we encourage them to work through these difficulties to enable them to manage their own needs. Students who have never encountered an open fire are not aware of the dangers or joys that they present: we offer them safe access to such things so that they can safely encounter them in later life. Risk, for some of our ASD students, includes changing their routing; being in school after dark, and not arriving home by LEA transport. We endeavour to support these students and have an excellent record in widening their horizons as they move towards independent life.  Our students’ experience of Night School changes as student move from key stage to key stage. Those in key stages 3 and 4 join in a wide range of activities as described above. For those in our Post-16 it develops to mirror life events enjoyed by students without learning disabilities. For example, students aged 16-18 may go to evening or night events with friends. We interpret this, within our school safeguarding policy, to include going out for dinner, or attending a school-hosted ‘club night.’    Through Night School our pupils:   * Try new things * Make thoughtful choices * Have new experiences * Learn to assess and take risks * Socialise * Are part of a caring community * Address and conquer fears and worries * Develop independent skills |

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| **Impact on pupil outcomes:**  Students learn to have, develop, and take control of their interest. They are empowered to request both familiar and new experiences, and to express their own wishes. They socialise, enjoy being with others, and develop new friendships. They learn to care for themselves and others. They become more independent, and grow towards becoming adults who play an active role in society. |

