



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our return to school from the summer break has been very successful with all students coming to school happy and ready to learn. Most students have been able to enjoy some trips out into the community which has been a great morale booster alongside developing essential life skills. We have made the most of the fine weather and utilised our outside space as much as possible for PE, street dance and a variety of other activities.

We have taken the decision, for the first time, to appoint a Head Girl and a Head Boy. These roles were awarded in a special assembly at the beginning of term and are reflective of the students' leadership skills. Both our Head Girl and our Head Boy continually demonstrate empathy, consideration and understanding of their fellow students and their needs. They are great role models within our school and excellent team players.

School life

This term we have continued with individual maths and English. We have increased the use of the Clicker programme for phonics and grammar which is working well and is popular with the students. In maths, as well as continuing to develop number facts, we have also looked at shapes either matching and identifying, or learning the language around the properties of shape.

All students have been joining in well with music, P.E and food tech as always.

We have been increasing the delivery of sensory and OT sessions with some new resources for Tac Pac and Quickshifts. Quickshifts are a group of sound-based tools that were developed out of a sensory integrative treatment framework. Quickshifts harness the power to facilitate functional improvement in a variety of areas that may affect an individual at home, school, work, or in the community. Quickshifts have been used to address a wide range of functional or sensorimotor challenges including (but not limited to): sensory modulation, self-regulation, anxiety, gross- or fine- motor coordination, attention and focus, social interaction, communication, executive functioning, bilateral integration.

This Quickshifts programme has been recommended by our Occupational Therapist and forms part of each students' OT programme. We are resending these documents to you via email so please do make yourself familiar with the recommendations. It would be fantastic if you could deliver some of the "wake up and breakfast" activities from the OT programme at home in the mornings.

Staff news

Vicky has been a Learning Mentor with us three years and has made a huge impact whilst working with a variety of students. Vicky has decided it is time to move on and pursue other opportunities. We will all miss Vicky and wish her all the very best.

Mrs Shiraz is having a baby which is lovely news! She will be starting her maternity leave after half term.

Carly B, who joined us last term, has moved on. Although Carly B was only here for a short time she will be missed.

Mitchell joined us at the beginning of October as a Learning Mentor. He has been busy with all kinds of training and getting to know our students. We are very happy Mitchell has joined us; he has fitted in perfectly.

Dates for your diary

School closes for half term today. We reopen at the usual time of 10am on Monday 31st October.

Our Christmas Show will take place at 11am on Wednesday 14th December this year – please put this date in your diaries and we really hope you are able to join us.

Useful information and links

May I remind you that all students' personal items (clothing, shoes, lunch boxes, bags, etc.) should be clearly labelled.

National Autistic Society - I am sure many of you are already well aware of this fantastic organisation. Their website is a great source of support and information: www.autism.org.uk

The Challenging Behaviour Foundation – this organisation is particularly good for parental support: www.challengingbehaviour.org.uk

Friendly Shoes - this organisation was brought to our attention by an Occupational Therapist. If you are looking for new footwear for your young person then please do take a look. This affordable footwear is designed for those with sensory needs: www.friendlyshoes.co.uk

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy half term break.

Best wishes,

Steven Sneesby

Headteacher