



Dear Parents,

The second half of our Autumn Term has been very busy, and I'm pleased to say that all students have continued to achieve well.

**School life**

As well as continuing with all regular learning, citizenship activities and work experience opportunities (including a new placement at Sportscene in Beaconsfield), we have been enjoying the festive period to the full.

Students each decorated Christmas hoops which are displayed in the hall at school; this is always fun opportunity for some creativity! Food technology lessons have focused around Christmas baking and decorating, and have produced some tasty festive delights!

The whole school came together on Thursday last week to enjoy Christmas lunch. We then had our Christmas party on Monday where Father Christmas and his reindeer visited and presented each student with a gift. A good time was had by all.

Thank you to those who came along to watch our Christmas Show last week. Lots of work went into the planning of this and students worked very hard in rehearsals - I'm sure you will agree their efforts paid off!

Thank you to those that have supported our choice to make a donation to The National Autistic Society this year instead of buying gifts; we appreciate your kind and thoughtful support for the wonderful work this charity continues to do.

This term students have been learning about a variety of celebrations and commemorative days from cultures and religions all around the world. These have included Remembrance Day, Diwali, Guru Nanak birthday, St Andrew's Day, Sinterkias, Bodhi Day and Thanksgiving.

All students have enjoyed a variety of craft activities as part of our creative curriculum, and have taken part in clay modelling, bead making, fabric printing, origami, painting, flower making, biscuit making, marzipan sweets, papier mache, collage, music, tartan design, sewing, paper weaving and model making.

As a special treat for the last day of term today, we had a visit from Bucky the horse. Bucky lives at Highbury Farm where some of our students go for work experience. We loved having Bucky on our school field and students had the opportunity to stroke, feed and lead him around for a walk on the grass.

**Staff news**

We welcomed Jack Elborn as a new Learning Mentor in November. Jack comes with a wealth of experience, and has fitted straight in at Kite Ridge. He is enjoying getting to know the students.

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Cathy Darvell. Cathy has been with us for almost 5 years and has contributed hugely to the lives of all students, and staff, at Kite Ridge. Whilst we are extremely sorry to see Cathy go, we wish her lots of luck as she begins an exciting new chapter with the NHS.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas. School reopens as normal on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January.

Best wishes,

*Steven Sneesby*

Headteacher

**Dates for your diary****December**

19<sup>th</sup> Last day at school (Christmas break)

**January**

3<sup>rd</sup> School reopens

**February**

15<sup>th</sup> Last day at school (half term break)

25<sup>th</sup> School reopens

**April**

5<sup>th</sup> Last day at school (Easter break)

24<sup>th</sup> School reopens

2018-19 term dates are available on our website.