

October Proprietor / Head Teacher Newsletter

What a busy month September was! The students are starting to feel more settled and October is all about embedding that good start and making progress towards the half term holiday. Thank you to the 4 families that sent representatives to the start of year talk, it was a shame not more people could make it, but those who did contributed significantly towards ideas for the coming year.

The power point we used is included within this letter as a handout, and if you would like any further information please make use of the Arun Court facebook page run by Victoria Romero. Victoria was at the talk and is happy to field any questions. You can contact her to join the page either on Facebook or by email (victoriamarket@gmail.com). You can also contact me via email for further information or call the school to discuss.

As you can see in the photo section, the children thoroughly enjoyed the leather making workshops! Those who were unable to attend have been purchased kits to work on at school, and due to the popularity of the course we have purchased a full 1 person leather making set of tools.

Over the course of this letter I will give you a flavour of what has been happening in September, plus highlight some coming events this month which I look forward to seeing you at,

With all good wishes,

Beverley-Sarah White

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

DATE	EVENT
Thursday 24th & Friday 25th October	The Big Write, followed by The Big Chill - students can come in pyjamas, these will be supported creative writing mornings followed by complete down time exercises, hot chocolate and relax sessions; perfect for just before half term
Monday 4th November	Students can dress in their Halloween outfits if they would like to! To ease into the new half term it will be gothic writing and drawing day!
Thursday 7th November	<u>Parent Talk and Play</u> 90 minute parent talk (45 mins on the Prevent strategy, 30 minutes on supporting young people with regards to internet risks and self harm/ suicide sites) 12:30 parent arrival Show for parents and students starts at 14:30, we will need to leave school at 14:00 latest
Tuesday 12th November	Exhibition Evening – to support disabled and elderly relatives wishing to see student work this event will be held at Unit 8a, Bramley Business Park which is all on one level
Thursday 14th November	An event is being planned for Children in Need
Wednesday 11th December	Community Victorian Christmas event – come and buy crafts and presents hand made by the students. Event being run by Oscar D
17th December	Last day of Term – students can leave at 14:00

Job skills day

On Wednesday 27th September students spent the whole day investigating a scenario around applying for a part time sales job with an independent extreme sports store.

As part of the sessions they learnt how to write application forms and supporting statements, as well as how to deliver an 'escalator pitch'. Some students decided to then go on and write to real companies requesting work experience.

We will be having another such day soon as the majority of children found it very useful. The next day will involve interview techniques and public speaking.

Combining therapy with heritage crafts

Whilst some staff ran the above day, other staff grouped together to information share about the progress of all the students. We carefully tracked academic and mental health progress against the curriculum. As a result we have created new groups for specific mindfulness schedules and also for solution-focussed coaching. Those students not ready for solution-based therapies with myself or Dr Vikki yet will be offered a more low- key support session where they can choose to chat or not whilst completing craft tasks. I've already started pyrography with some students and I've got most of the school finger knitting as a way to relax or to keep hands occupied whilst chatting! I'll be adding patchwork, embroidery and quilling to the offer as the term progresses – all with a therapeutic slant and space to chat in a counselling/coaching environment for those who feel able to.

Monitoring

As head teacher I monitor the student work and books on a weekly basis. My new day for doing so is on a Thursday, and for those young people who seem ready, I've started to look through the books with the students themselves. This is really important so that they feel their achievements are celebrated and when they are feeling things are too hard that they get a chance to discuss this with the school leadership.

In addition, Christopher Bevan carries out regular observations of learning and group therapy sessions throughout the week and we discuss this at our SLT meetings. All this information, along with the data and information from more informal talks with students, guides the curriculum which is still altered on a weekly basis to ensure it meets the current needs and presentation of the young people. We still aim to provide a bespoke service within our new school context.

Entering a National competition

Eligible students are being given the opportunity to use lesson time and have support to enter the Science Museum competition below! It links very well to our growth mindset and solution-focused approach! Please discuss ideas with your young person so they really start to think outside the box!

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THE HEROES OF TOMORROW

Calling all teachers!

What would your pupils create to make tomorrow's world a better place?

**A homework robot.
A flying car.
A hoverboard wheelchair.**

If your pupils are aged 7 - 14 and have ideas that can change the world, the Young Imagineers competition is for them! Just ask your pupils to draw their designs and explain them in 100 words. Visit the site below to upload these ideas before 27th October. The winning invention will be displayed at the Science Museum in London. What a great prize!

Who knows, maybe one day homework will be a thing of the past!

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YOUNG IMAGINEERS

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What did we do in September?



The lower school attended Jack's coffee morning (R-OUT-ES) fund raiser – talked to locals, ate cakes and took part in a raffle! Over £100 raised!

We discovered Leather craft!





We excelled at our interventions! Even very new students and those on trials have managed to take part in English, maths and OT programmes so far this term – well done guys!



We enjoyed the new grass and chilling in the nurture room. A new weekly Nurture Room assembly meant we could all take part in sensory tasks together each week as a community.



Adam had a very short hair cut ... but some very long walks!

