

Art Department Trips

We are very lucky to be working with Rosanna Clare a local artist and craftswoman.

Small groups of students will be visiting her workshop at Smith brook kilns and will have the opportunity to make a bi-fold wallet! Students would get a choice of leather and thread colours and can emboss their name/initials on it at the end if they like. Each workshop will be approximately 2 hours. This is part of our Art and Craft curriculum in the lower school, plus we have selected older students to take part who are particularly interested in this area.

Each workshop costs £40 plus costs associated with transport and staffing cover. Student's wallets will be kept by the school in student's art portfolios until the end of the academic year, after which time they can be taken home and both used and treasured! We aim to try to keep costs down for parents, especially when trips are curriculum based, therefore we are only asking for a £5 contribution which will cover the cost of travel to and from the workshop.

Name of student:

Date of their afternoon workshop:

Tuesday 17th September

Thursday 19th September

Wednesday 25th September

Thursday 26th September

I give permission for my young person to attend this trip and to be transported by staff. I give permission for the attending staff member to act in loci-parentis and to make decisions regarding first aid if necessary. I enclose £5 to support the school with the costs of this trip.

Signed:

Parent/Guardian

Date **Print name**



WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to existing students and a warm hello to all those joining us officially this term!

We have had a lot of work done over the summer and so the students will notice some changes. The upper school is now downstairs and will be called 'Oppia' after their room, and the younger students are the new 'Jaa' upstairs. This was to make room for a full group of 10 older, and larger students.

The lower school have got all new desks and chairs, as well as the Jaa room gaining a new television set and snug area.

The nurture room has finally had the grass fitted and Hannah is busy ordering furniture and accessories for her 'indoor relaxing garden'

We have been investigating the new curriculum and have started to plan lots of fun events so do look out for the 'events' newsletter which will be going out shortly! We are really pleased to have found a local leatherworker for students to work with as part of their art curriculum. B.S White

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There is a 2020 key information evening with the Chair of EMAT on Thursday 19th September at 18:00. This is for parents / guardians only, not students. Please try to attend if you can.

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Registration forms will be sent home this Friday.

Please fill in and return your registration forms for your young person's placement this year and read the accompanying handbook and prospectus! Many thanks

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BIG NEWS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

It is with sadness that I write to you to inform you of my intention to resign as headteacher. Setting up the wider company initially six years ago, obtaining school status and then transferring to ownership under a non-profit based structure has been a long and arduous process during which time I also gave birth to my youngest son. I came back full time just 4 weeks after a c-section, and often work a 70 hour week, so now I feel that with the project stable, as much as I love my work here, I'm due some maternity leave (especially as Joseph is 3!)

I've therefore submitted my resignation as headteacher, with a view to this being effective **after the end of the Easter Term**. After this, I will remain as Proprietor and in a more 'executive head' capacity, which will be a part time role enabling me to spend more time with my family. Through this role I will try to ensure that the founding principles of the setting I created continue and the ethos remains unchanged.

If the governing body (EMAT) do not find a suitable candidate by the start of the summer term I will remain in role until the end of the year, but I'm hopeful that this will not be the case. My therapeutic roles will also need to be covered elsewhere in the staffing structure, and as a result there may be some small changes to our offer, especially out of hours services. The Chair of EMAT will be holding a meeting to discuss this, and other matters, further with you at the Parent Information evening on Thursday 19th September at 18:00 but I felt it was important to inform you as you may come across the advert for the new post and be concerned.

Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to continuing in my role as head teacher for these next two terms!

B.S White

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GCSE results 2019– A huge well done!

ENGLISH – 100% LEVEL 5 (in predicted range)
MATHS – 50% LEVEL 5, 50% LEVEL 2 = AVERAGE 3.5 (in expected range)
BIOLOGY – 100% LEVEL 5 (in expected range)
ENGLISH LITERATURE – 100% LEVEL 6 (in expected range)
MUSIC – 100% LEVEL 8 (above expectations)

These results reflect only one year of intensive study (with the previous year more therapy focused) and with full time attendance only from February. Students have been accepted into their first choice colleges of Guildford College and The Brit School – we couldn't be more proud of them.

We are excited to be starting a 2 year GCSE programme this year with students studying English, maths, art (various), biology, citizenship and R.E as the core offer with individual students also taking D.T textiles and English Literature. This will mean we have a much larger cohort of 8 – 9 students which will further help us to properly assess our achievements.

Christmas Woolly Tree!

We are making a crochet / knitted Christmas tree which we will display in the school and then donate to a local home for the elderly for their Christmas celebrations. After Christmas we will retrieve the tree and re-purpose the squares into a blanket to donate to children less fortunate than ourselves. We are looking for students and parents to crochet or knit small squares in different tree 'shades'. If you'd like to get involved either through 'sponsoring' the tree via wool donation or by making squares, please let Hannah know!

Adam's Birthday

Adam turned 3 years on 5th September when school had not re-started. We are therefore going to celebrate his birthday on Monday 16th with a doggie walk and photo shoot!

We'll be making the pictures into a calendar to sell in aid of the Christmas Appeal for World Vision. Please return your photo permission slip so you can take part!

OTHER STAFF NEWS:

Gillian has confirmed that she will be returning after October half term!

Sarah has decided to work as a consultant within the R-out-es service. She will however be working with the lower school for forest adventure and life skills once a week.

Maria (who has been working with specific students in the older group) has agreed to fill the gap and be the main class teacher for the lower school. She is a qualified secondary teacher, able to teach the full curriculum, but with specialist subjects of Spanish and R.E.

We welcome back Jess as our music coach, working across both upper and lower school.

CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION EVENING

We will be having an early Christmas celebration with Exhibition Evening on 12th November. This year it will be held at the Big Bear company offices in the Bramley Business Park (unit 8 A) This event will also include the work not shown at the last intended event. We encourage parents to all come along!



New 'Student Voice' Representatives

Student Health & safety representative: Joshua Romero

Role: To assist in the planning and running of fire drills, evacuations and safety events (picture below). To ensure information regarding personal and school safety is provided to students and parents. To carry out health and safety walks and checks with the EMAT member Colin Brown (picture below) and the caretaking services from Options Facilities Management. To liaise with key agencies such as fire safety.



Student Safeguarding Representative – Taylan Pasa

Role: To ensure students are aware of key safeguarding issues such as peer on peer abuse, bullying and hazing. To support in the design of peer mentoring programmes at the school to help bolster student self-esteem. To bring ideas from fellow students to the attention of the SLT about courses linked to safeguarding issues.



Taylan presenting awards to last years student mentors

Student Arts & Creativity Representative: Marcus Gordon

Role: To ensure that the arts are represented in the school curriculum and that student's get regular opportunities for creative expression. To review the environment and explore ways in which students can be inspired by great craft, art, literature, dance, music and drama.
(Marcus, Left, on National Music Therapy day)



We are looking for representatives to help with the healthy school award and to also represent environmental issues – if you'd like to take part let us know! It does involve some extra work at home and coming to meet with EMAT (governors) and senior leaders at various points in the year.

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Photo return slip



Name of student:

Yes! I'm happy for my young person to be photographed as part of the 2020 Big Bear Bespoke Education calendar in aid of World Vision! I understand that parents and relatives will be able to purchase the calendar and it will not be available for general sale. Each calendar will have generic pages, plus some specific shots of my young person with Adam and Bugs.

Signed Parent/guardian

Date