

Newsletter for parents/carers of students with SEND

March 2024



Dear Parent/Carer

As we move through our second term, I wanted to send an update of our SEND news and dates for your diaries. I have included some of the information from the last school newsletter, just in case you missed it.

Individual SEND update meeting (online) - booking opens 11th March

Date for your diary: **there will be a separate email sent today confirming details. Do not reply to this letter.**

We would like to offer you the option of a SEND update meeting for your child. Time slots for this meeting will be from **8.30am to 4.00pm** on **Monday 18th March or Tuesday 19th March**. Please choose which day you prefer to book your meeting. You will be able to book **one** 10 minute meeting with any one of the following members of the SEND Team:

Ben Middleton, SENDCo
Elaine McIntosh, Deputy SENDCo
Nikki Brennan, Assistant headteacher

Parent/Carer support group

The group will meet again on **Monday 25th March, 2024, 4.00pm until 5.00pm in the Croft Centre, next to South school reception**. Its remit is to be a supportive network for parents and carers to gain information from each other. If you are running late, please do not worry and come along when you can. However, we will finish promptly at 5.00pm.

Parent/carer drop in

As a reminder, there is a weekly drop in available for all parents/carers every Wednesday 3.10pm to 4.10pm. Arrive at North school reception - no need to pre-book.

Autism awareness training undertaken by staff

The second session of 'Making sense of Autism', will be delivered by Amy Wright, for the National Autistic Society on March 19th for staff. This is part of our ongoing commitment to support the needs of our students with autism.

Study skills sessions for selected students with SEND

The next session is 14th May, 2024, 9.00am to 11.15am in the Croft Centre. We will inform students and get them there as it is in school time. As always a drink and kit kats are supplied!

The last study skills session was run in January 2024. It is an exam 'walk through' for our SEND students. It targets the English language papers and is run by our SLE, Jane Luck, ably supported by Ben Middleton, SENDCo and our HLTA for English, Jo Walker. The sessions are run in our conference room for 2 hours. It is an intensive session given before the mock exams and again in the summer before the real exams. We supply exam papers, expertise, guided practice, feedback and kit kat. A kind parent took the time to write in to Jane Luck, regarding January's session, which was much appreciated:

Can I just say thank you for English support class this morning.

He said it was a great lesson and feels like it was a great help running up to mocks.

Many thanks for the support.

Parent of Y11 SEND student involved in study skills

Supporting students with ASD/ADHD

We continue to offer 6 week programmes led by Mrs Haxell and Mr Hodges. These are listed on the SEND section of the website. The aim is always to support neurodiverse students to understand ASD/ADHD and how it may affect them. We also look at strategies and tools that can help a student to self manage in school.

Learning support football

This runs after school every Wednesday. Please speak to Mr Rosmini if interested. All welcome.

SEND study club

Currently, there is a waiting list for the club. We are trying to build more capacity whilst we prioritise year 11 ready for their exams. Mrs McIntosh and Mrs Walker offer a SEND homework drop in club in room 59 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays after school if support or a place to work is needed. Please contact your child's form tutor who will talk to your child about where to go and when.

NEW: Parent/carer course for children with ASD

Two members of staff have been trained to run the Teenlife programme for parents/carers, developed by the National Autistic Society. The programme will largely run during the school day in the Summer term. It is six 2.5 hour sessions. Our staff trainers have been hugely impressed with the quality and scope of the material to be delivered and thoroughly recommend the course. Further details will be published in due course.

Feedback for the team

As always, if you have concerns, please do raise them with the team, or better still come to a drop in session.

When things go well, please do share these too. Positive feedback is a boost to the team and lets us know when we have done something well.

Nikki Brennan
Assistant headteacher