



February 2018

Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

We have been working hard on a number of fronts this month that we know are all having a positive impact on pupil's enjoyment of school. They are each relatively small, but collectively we can already see that they are welcome and much needed tweaks and changes.

Bus routines at the start and end of the day have been changed so that getting into and away from school is now much quicker. It now takes us less than 10 minutes to off-load the buses and just over 10 minutes to re-load at the end of the day. In addition, we now ensure that all our doors through the school are open in the morning, so that pupils can make their way to their tutor rooms without needing an adult to walk them through. All in all, this has reduced anxiety, developed independence and significantly reduced the time spent waiting in buses or waiting rooms in preference to learning and group activities.

We have also been working hard with our food suppliers and the catering company. The quality of the food has already significantly improved over the last 2 weeks and I met with the contract managers today to ensure that it gets even better, and quickly. The proof has been seen through more food being eaten, including much more fruit, vegetables and salad - and through the

many smiles and positive words from the pupils I eat with every day. We have even seen our staff choosing the refreshed food now, a sure sign that we are getting there already! On a similar note, I was pleased to agree to 'fruity Tuesdays' today; starting after the half-term.

We continue to monitor the quality of teaching and learning very closely, including our progress against every pupils' EHCP targets. This work is ongoing, but we can already see that the newly re-written plans for maths and English are supporting better lessons and higher standards, as will the refreshed planning for the rest of the curriculum. The class newsletters seem to have been well received, as is the increase in DoJo messages from your teachers and TAs.

Many of you were able to visit the school for our Open House event recently, thank you for braving the weather and taking the time to look around the school. I spoke to many of you who were keen to celebrate our strengths and the great work of your teaching and support staff teams. I look forward to meeting more of you during the consultation meetings in March (details to follow) and we will plan for a second Open House later in the year.

Mr P Marshall
Executive Headteacher



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www.highfield-school.co.uk



@highfieldSEN

World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
1 MARCH 2018

Thursday 1st March

As you may know, Thursday 1st March is World Book Day. To celebrate this day your child will receive a £1 book token, which can be redeemed in a range of shops.

Highfield School is keen to promote reading for pleasure and as such we are inviting students to dress as their favourite character from a book on Thursday 1st March. We hope that this will help to create a buzz about books and reading around school. Your child may also want to bring the book, which features their chosen character. Prizes will be awarded for the best dressed.

If students choose not to dress up they must attend school in full uniform.

In addition to this, we will be holding a book swap event, where students can exchange their old or unused books for another book of their choice.

In order to raise money for Book Aid International we will ask for a voluntary donation of 50p.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

Rotary Youth Development Under Sail

in partnership with Ocean Youth Trust North

We are delighted that Mathew Boycott in year 11 has been provisionally selected to take part in Rotary Youth Development Under Sail opportunity this Summer. This programme is aimed at the personal development of young people. Awardees are selected and sponsored by their local Rotary Club are engaged through a 6 day residential Sail Training/Work experience during a voyage at sea. Participants will sail on the James Cook which will be participating in the Tall Ships voyage 5th - 12th August.

Sail Training with Ocean Youth Trust North requires participants to confront many challenges, both physical and emotional. It is an activity that inspires self-confidence and the acceptance of personal responsibility, promotes the acceptance of others whatever their social or cultural backgrounds and develops a willingness to take controlled risks. For most it is a positive life changing experience.

Awardees will spend 2 days in Holland enjoying the Tall Ships festivities and fireworks, participate in the Parade of Sail aboard James Cook. The actual voyage will be to sail the James Cook back across the North Sea from Holland to North Shields. They will disembark the James Cook at its home port of Royal Quays Marina, North Shields on Sunday 12th August.

Ocean Trust North and the Ossett Rotary Club are asking that Mathew attempts to raise the additional £100 [approximate] towards the cost of getting him from North Shields to Holland to join the James Cook for the closing ceremonies of Tall Ships Race. We will be supporting Mathew in school to look at ways we can help him raise these funds.





Keeping Safe on Social Media

Regrettably some pupils use social media for negative reasons without realising the impact it creates for others and the disruption it can cause in school.

The BBC have produced a dedicated page to helping young people keep safe and use social media sensibly.

We will be using the page within school but if parents would like to view and share with your child then visit:

www.bit.do/bbcownit

WESAIL

WESAIL stands for:

Wakefield
Early
Support
Advice
Information
Liaison

The name explains most of what they do. But here's what their website says:

“WESAIL Is a one stop shop for advice, support and signposting.”

WESAIL are a local part of the national charity KIDS.

For more info, go to:
www.bit.do/WESAIL

Or call: **01924 379 015**

A nice idea for Parents of Younger Students

(from The Hut Staff)

Do you use a reward system for your child at home (for example, following a morning routine so that they get ready more independently)?

Do you need to freshen up your reward system?

Is your reward system starting to have less effect?

Fancy a change to a reward system? Would a new idea help you keep your child motivated?

Have you ever used a jigsaw reward system?

Print or draw a picture of a child's interest onto card. Cut it into jigsaw pieces. Then the child can earn pieces. Once the jigsaw is complete, the child gets their reward. Popular interests at school include Pokemon, Minecraft and puppies/dogs. We think this is a lovely, visual and motivating way of earning reward for children with complex needs.



Year 10/11 BTEC Horticulture

By Mr Hoyle - HLTA, Horticulture and Rural

Highfield students in years 10 and 11 are completing a BTEC qualification in Horticulture.

The course started in good weather during September and the students have completed one unit so far called Introduction to Ground Preparation. The students have been clearing last years crops, removing weeds, digging the plots and generally improving the soil with our homemade compost in preparation for the next growing season. We have already planted spring cabbage, onions and garlic in late October, these are all growing nicely and will be ready for sale May and early June.

In addition the students have started their winter unit called Introduction to Pruning Trees and Shrubs. The students have been pruning our large collection of fruit trees in anticipation of the new growing season, these include; Figs, Plums Apples, Pears, Gages, Grapes, Cherries, Wild Plums and Cherries to name a few.

We have 206 fruiting trees in the school grounds, which have been planted and cared for by students over the last seven years. They learn when, how and why we pruned to benefit the trees and help them to produce a large crop of fruit for sale or to make various jams and chutneys that we also sell in school as we did at the Christmas fair last year.

All students from years 7 to 14 work in the school garden at some time during the school year, learning many different skills associated with working with soils, plants and trees.

They also get plenty of fresh air, sun on their faces and learn to work together as a team in an informal but safe environment.



Anxiety: Hints & Tips

From The Hut Team

Anxiety is common.

Many parents tell us they are worried about their child's anxiety levels. Some parents also tell us that they have significant anxiety themselves.

It's typical to feel anxious every now and then, for example, when a youngster starts a new school, or is moving to something new.

Anxiety is a feeling of nervousness – it's a typical response in youngsters when faced with change or an upsetting circumstance.

Yet, for a few youngsters, anxiety affects their behaviour daily, causing issues at school and at home.

What types of anxiety do children and teenagers experience?

- A fear or phobia about something specific
- Feeling anxious for most of the time for no apparent reason (generalised anxiety disorder)
- Separation anxiety
- Social anxiety
- School-based anxiety

How common are anxiety disorders in children?

Nearly 300,000 young people in Britain have an anxiety disorder.

Secondary aged pupils are more likely to experience anxiety than primary age pupils. Signs of anxiety:

- finding it hard to concentrate
- not sleeping, or waking in the night with bad dreams
- not eating properly

- quickly getting angry or irritable, and being out of control during outbursts
- constantly worrying or having negative thoughts
- feeling tense and fidgety, or using the toilet often
- often crying
- appearing clingy all the time
- complaining of tummy aches and feeling unwell

Are there hints & tips for parenting a youngster with anxiety?

- Encourage them to talk
- Talking will not make the situation worse. Although sometimes it may take a while for them to open up. Listen and be patient.
- Talking can be hard initially.
- Sometimes it can help to do something practical together.
- Know that when they are at their most anxious, it might be the worst time to talk to them about it.
- Let the child know that you do care and want to help.
- Try not to get frustrated.
- Remind them that they good at things
- Try to prepare them for big changes (this could include calendars to cross off, social stories or visits to their new street if they are moving house).
- Help them to prioritise and organise their things they need to do.



Post-16 News

SSt Class

Since September the students in SSt have been working really hard to prepare themselves to be job ready. The pre-internship programme has enabled them to develop their confidence, self-esteem, social skills and work experience skills.

They have written a reflection about the process and also had the opportunity to interview Liam Newbiggings, who is the first of our Pinderfields interns to succeed in achieving paid employment.

Since September we have been doing the pre internship programme with Sharon and Vicky.

We have been to Pinderfields Hospital and we went down to the training classroom where we met Dave. He showed us around the wards and we

went to see some of the interns. I would like to do the internship because I would like to get a job. Dave showed us portering and I would like to do portering because it is interesting to do and I like pushing trolleys and taking patients to the ward. I would like to work in an office at the hospital because it's interesting and I would get skills working on the computer and typing. At Highfields I am doing work experience at the Holiday Inn. I do travel training on Thursdays, where we are going down to Pinderfields hospital and seeing all the interns. I can't wait to hear if I have got a place. I'm excited to do the internship and get a job.

By Liam Callaghan



The reason why I am interested in the internship programme is because I want to do something different and also I want to hopefully get a job after the programme has finished. I like to be kept busy and I think I'm going to be really confident if I get on the internship programme. I would love to get a job and eventually get my own money. I would like to develop my confidence so I am not nervous when working with new people.

By Jamie Evans

First time I came to post 16 I was sceptical what they do. I have been with Sharon and Vicky now and I do lots of work experience, travel training and I am learning new skills. My confidence is up and I now believe that I can get a job. First time

I went to the hospital I was excited to hear about a new opportunity that they have. The internship programme is an opportunity to work in Pinderfields Hospital and work at different jobs. You will get lots of work experience so you be excellent at your other jobs. I want to go on the internship programme because I will be happy at my jobs. All the staff are really polite, helpful and caring when they are talking to you. I am really excited to hear if I have been accepted onto the programme.

By Daniel Long



I am not as nervous about the internship because I have met Dave and the interns because we have visited Pinderfields hospital every Thursday with Sharon and Vicky. I'm excited about a change from college and moving on. The reason I would like to apply is I want to get a Job and work hard and be a good worker. I think I would do a good job on the internship. I have seen the training room, I have seen what the interns do and where they work and it's all very interesting. I have also seen the different rooms where they work. The job that I would like to do is housekeeping on the wards serving drinks and snacks to patients, cleaning and talking to people because I am good at talking. I would be really happy if I was successful at getting a place on the internship programme.



By Hannah Edwards

Today we visited Pinderfields Hospital to interview Liam who is currently on the internship. I would like to proudly say that Liam has successfully got a job in the pharmacy. As a class we asked Liam a variety of questions about how he felt about having a full time job, what his hours of work would be, how he felt in the interview and what he was going to spend his money on. Liam answered all the questions honestly and he was very confident in answering the questions. This has inspired us as a class to apply for the internship programme. Well done Liam everyone at Highfield is very proud of what you have achieved.



By Briony Walker



Well Done Liam!

Well done to Liam Newbiggings who is the first of our Pinderfields interns to succeed in achieving paid employment! A great achievement.



Roast Chicken Dinner - YUM!

This week the pupils in post 16 worked together to make and serve a full roast chicken dinner. Together they planned the meal, went out shopping for the ingredients and cooked the meal. Everyone really enjoyed their food and it all looked absolutely delicious. Well Done guys!

Joke of the Day!

From 9AB

How does Frankenstein get to work?

In his monster truck!





MY PROJECT SEARCH NEWSLETTER

MY Project SEARCH Launch!

Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust Project SEARCH was launched at Pinderfields Hospital on Monday 4 September 2017. The six young people with learning difficulties have been warmly welcomed by everyone and have settled in extremely well. Project SEARCH is a programme designed to help young people gain employment by giving them experience of work via a supported internship programme. So far the interns have been working in Portering, Pharmacy, Recruitment, Ward 18, HSDU, and Facilities.



Team of the Week!

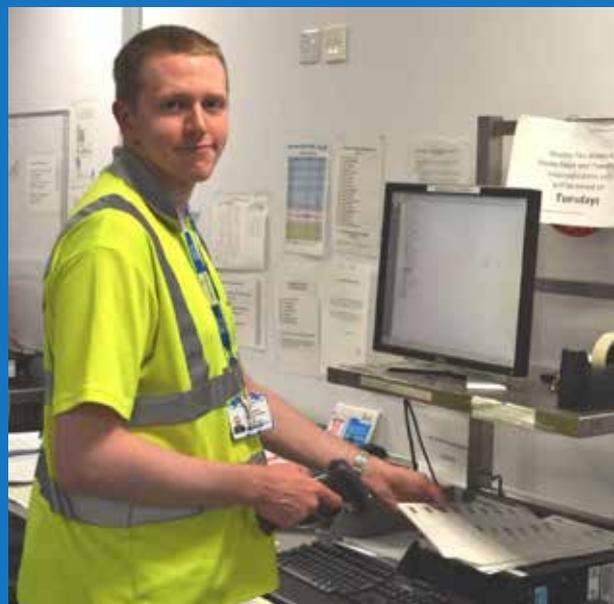
The Project SEARCH team was recently awarded MY Team of the Week; the certificate was nice, and the chocolates even nicer! To be recognised as making a valuable contribution to the Trust is so important to the team. All six interns have been on time for work every day since the programme started and are showing great commitment to their different duties around the Pinderfields site.

Joe goes from Strength to Strength...

Joe has been working in HSDU Sterile Services since early September. Supported by mentors in the Case Cart team Joe quickly acquired the skills needed to prepare surgical instruments and transport them to the operating theatres. This is a critical role, ensuring that the correct instrument packs are delivered to the correct theatre at the correct time!

Joe is naturally diligent, has great attention to detail, and is committed to doing the job right, skills which make him ideally suited to working in HSDU.

Not content with Case Cart, Joe has recently started preparing podiatry packs for distribution as well!





Food Safety Level 2 Award

As well as working hard around the hospital, some of the interns are also accessing training opportunities to gain valuable knowledge and qualifications. Above Luke, Joe, Liam, and Emily are studying for their Level 2 Food Safety award, a necessary qualification for many departments in the hospital where workers are preparing or serving food. James Charlton from Engie is doing a great job of delivering the training and preparing the interns for the examination which they will sit in the New Year. Did you know that the temperature danger zone where bacteria can multiply on food is between 5 degrees C and 63 degrees C?

Godspower Nnamdi

Godspower has been working in the non-patient portering department and has impressed everyone with his fitness levels and work ethic! Godspower has profound hearing loss and is currently learning British Sign Language. BSL lessons are taking place on a weekly basis in the training room both for the interns as well as Godspower's work colleagues. Being able to communicate with Godspower will greatly improve his chances of employment.



Meet the Support Team

Our staff team consists of Dave Brady (Class Tutor), (pictured middle), Marcia Haigh (Job Coach) and Stephen Hicks (Classroom Support and BSL Support for Godspower). Project SEARCH is a collaborative programme which relies on the active support from parents and carers, Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust staff, Hft, as well as Wakefield's education providers, and in particular Highfield School. A big thank you to everyone who is contributing to the success of MY Project SEARCH!



Behaviour Awards

Well done to all pupils who have received their behaviour awards.

Those listed below who have achieved their silver have stayed on Green and had exemplary behaviour for 12 weeks! An absolutely fantastic achievement by everyone!

SILVER AWARD
7/8RG
Melanie Jowitt Henry Smart Abel Alem Tanya Hussain
7CR
Jamie McKeith Thomas Avison Faith Batchelor Codey Henderson
7/8KW
Dante Mwazi Justin Greaves
7PH
Nicole Godber Laiba Khan Reanna Rusling Kieran Barrett-Pickles
8MW
Allan Overend Owen Crowther Adam Midgley Joshua Kay
8/9SSk
Louis Istrefaq Morgan McCluskey



BEHAVIOUR AWARD

9AB
Leonna Galsworthy Reece Wilby Daniel Wainwright Sam Larter Elisha Britton Kirsty Applegarth Presley Beckham
9RPα
Robert Crosse Ben Hemingway Evan Jessop Charlie Johnson Tyler Ruckledge Bobby Rutter Thomas Shaw
10AW
Kian Appleton Levi Bitten Jenna Cahill-Phoenix Amber Dyson Grace Gregson Alfie Jukes Archie Miller
11SN
Chloe-Anne Charman Emma Flavell Nazala Parveen Charlotte Davinson John Leach
11SC
Jack Armitage Matthew Boycott

BRONZE AWARD	
7CR	
Melanie Jowitt Cohen Hope Thomas Ridsdale Jemima Keen-Swift Kieran Carragher	
7PH	
Kieran Fryer	
8MW	
Tyler Bostock	
9AB	
Gage Mellor Reece Horton James Paul	
9RP α	
Sam Charlton-Drake James Playford	

10AW	
Noah Goodson	
10RPi	
Eve Crowther Harrison Cook Joseph Early Nadine Fall Elle Evans	
11SN	
Chloe Lewins Peggi Morrell Lauren Slinn	
11SC	
Mason Ashton Lewis Jackson Ethan Rhodes	

Highfield School Term Calendar - February/March 2018

Week Beginning	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
19 th February	FEBRUARY HALF TERM				
26 th February	2.15 KS4 Assembly			2.15 KS3 Assembly	
5 th March	2.15 KS4 Assembly			2.15 KS3 Assembly	
12 th March	2.15 KS4 Assembly			2.15 KS3 Assembly	
19 th March	2.15 KS4 Assembly	Parents Consultation Evening, 2-5pm	Parents Consultation Evening, 5-7pm	2.15 KS3 Assembly	
26 th March	2.15 KS4 Assembly			2.15 KS3 Assembly	GOOD FRIDAY

We hope you all have a lovely half term break, school reopens on Monday 26th February 2018





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