



## September 2018

# Newsletter



### Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

For all of us at Highfield, September is a special time - it's our time to refresh, renew and start again. Many of the plans we shared with you last year are now up and running! Key stage three have lessons with our specialist teachers in art, music, fitness, PE and cooking alongside lesson with their class teachers. Pupils in our complex classes are following the new semi-formal curriculum. Key stage four pupils have optional subjects that they are clearly enjoying and specialist teachers for most subjects. Although there have been some teething problems that are now resolved, I was pleased to celebrate with pupils an excellent start to the year, especially in key stage four who have been exemplary. As staff, we have been pleased to see very high levels of purposeful activity sustained throughout the day and the excellent progress being made in lessons that are now delivered by our specialist teams - who have had the additional challenge of developing an understanding and working relationship with so many new pupils so quickly.

Our intervention programme has started, with a range of additional lessons running for pupils in a wide variety of areas. These include speech, language and communication interventions and touch typing, for example. Our initial drive is to ensure that all the support therapies are in place for pupils who have these strategies detailed within their EHCPs, but I'm pleased to say that we have created sufficient additional capacity this year to work with a much larger group who we feel would benefit from support as well. Details of this will be sent home separately and as relevant to your child.

Finally, joining late last year, I would like to formally welcome Mrs Brenkley who is teaching year 9.

If you have any questions or concerns, please make good use of the Dojo system to chat with class teachers, or get in touch through reception.

**Mr P Marshall**  
Executive Headteacher



## Dojo

If you are already signed up to Class Dojo then we hope you have noticed an increase in communication from the staff working with your child.

We have been using it for a number of years as a way of rewarding our younger pupils, and as a way of communicating with parents. As 75% of pupils have a parent or carer connected to dojo we realised that we needed to maximise the way we use it in school.

You may have already seen that we are able to post whole school messages, class stories and personal messages from individual staff.

We have been very excited to relaunch it this year and we are working with all staff to support them to learn how to use it and get into the habit of sharing with you.

We also understand that not everyone uses social communication so we are also continuing to use journals for those who are not connected as well as for those who prefer using a home to school journal.

Our aim is to give you regular updates on what is happening in school as well as what your own child is doing and how they are progressing.

We also welcome feedback to the leadership team regarding the use of dojo, or what you would like to hear about from your child's class teacher.

You are able to sign up to dojo and use it only on a pc or laptop. The full functionality is only available on the app. We will be resending out a paper copy of the invite or please feel free to ring school.

## School Uniform

The school are currently sourcing a new external uniform supplier and will be in contact with parents/carers shortly with the stockists and their locations.

We have a small stock left of some sizes in school and we will continue to sell these until they have sold out. Please check with the admin staff for availability.



## 7AB Playdough

In 7AB not all of us can use normal playdough because we are celiac. Because of this we asked if some of the 6th form students could make us some playdough from non-wheat based products so that we can all still use it in our learning.

Charlotte and Matthew made us 2 colours, Red and Blue, using gluten-free products and now every-one in our class can use it. We have already worked with the dough to make 10 fat sausages, to improve our fine-motor skills and to create letter shapes in our Communication lessons.

The next step is to keep us in regular supply and 7AB are already requesting a rainbow of colours from Matthew and Charlotte.

## Horticulture News

In earlier newsletters I informed you that Highfield School had supported Ossett Town's entry for the Yorkshire in Bloom Competition this year by growing over 500 hundred plants from seed, caring for them and eventually planting them out in Ossett Town Centre in June with our BTEC students. It was a great team effort by students and staff from across the whole school, including Post 16.

We were also part of the judging process in late July when the Britain in Blooms head judge from The Royal Horticultural Society visited Highfield School. He asked lots of questions about what we do here in gardening lessons, he was particularly interested in our community involvement and the family horticulture days. He looked at the facilities and the vast range of flowers, vegetables, fruit trees and fruit bushes and seemed very interested and impressed with what he saw and heard.

The Yorkshire in Bloom award ceremony was held in York on the 11th September and Ossett Town received a Silver Gilt medal for their floral displays and community involvement a result which made the Ossett in Bloom committee very proud. In addition I'm pleased to inform you that as the result of what the judge saw here at Highfield, we won the category for the best supported learning project in horticulture for the whole of the Yorkshire region, against some stiff opposition. We are all very proud of this achievement. Thank you to all the staff, students and the families and friends of students who attended the family horticulture day back in June who did fantastic work to get the garden looking good for the Judging process.



## Healthy Eating

As part of Highfield's healthy eating and healthy choices policy, we in the school horticulture department have contributed by harvesting our crops and using some of them in the following ways. We are providing fruit from our gardens for individual classes, including pears, apples, plums, and tomatoes to give the students a healthy choice for snacks. Our living skills department are planning some lessons around the availability of school vegetables so students can cook and eat what they have grown.

The school kitchens are using a variety of our school produce in their menus when available, in particular salad crops, such as onions, tomatoes, beetroot and peppers but also some fruit options, grapes being a favourite. Our policy will continue to be sow, grow, harvest, cook and eat samples of our own school produce when available.





# MY PROJECT SEARCH

The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has once again collaborated with Highfield School, Wakefield Council, HFT Supported Employment Agency, Pennine Camphill Community and Wakefield College, to give young adults with learning disabilities, the chance to gain valuable work experience, in a programme called Project SEARCH. Project SEARCH is an international training programme aimed at supporting young people with learning disabilities into paid employment, running at 30+ sites across the UK.

The Project SEARCH programme, which The Trust launched last September, is a one year supported training and employment opportunity for adults aged 17-25 with a learning disability, which takes place at the Pinderfields Hospital site.

Project SEARCH provides real life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills, as well as formulating a CV, to help young people make successful transitions from school to productive adult life. The goal for each student is competitive employment somewhere in the community using the skills they have acquired at Pinderfields Hospital.

This year, in the second year of the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals programme, there will be eleven trainees based at the hospital for one academic year, where they will gain 30 weeks of placement experience in different departments within the hospital, including;

Recruitment, Facilities, Medical Records, Medical Staffing, and many more.

The trainees are matched to their placements in terms of skills, abilities and interests, and this differs for each student. The trainees are supported by a local mentor who works alongside them in the department, helping them to learn the skills required in each placement, until they can perform the tasks independently.

The trainees also receive support from their on-site job coach and tutor, who support them in placement and help them to develop an employability plan, CV and write letters to employers. The trainees have classroom based learning on topics such as employability skills, social skills and health and safety in the hospital.

One of last year's Interns, Luke Anderson, who worked on Gate 18 at Pinderfields Hospital, said; "I really like giving out drinks to the patients and sandwiches at lunch time. Sometimes I help with the cleaning, wiping all the surfaces to keep them clean. I worked with Shirley; she was friendly and polite and showed me how to do things properly. The patients' favourite drink is hot chocolate."

Gordon Smith, Head of Diversity and Inclusion, at The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, said; "We are delighted once again to support this project and very much look forward to working with our partners to develop further the programme in the future.

"We hope to offer many more supported learning students, in the Mid Yorkshire region, the chance to develop life skills and gain the confidence to successfully enter the world of work."

"Internship programmes like Project SEARCH demonstrate the untapped talent pool of young people with learning disabilities that is available to all employers and promotes the benefit of employing a diverse workforce."

## RYDUS

It was a pleasure to sit with Matthew in the rotary celebration lunch recently where we learnt of his very challenging expedition.

His ordeal began months before setting off with a fundraising campaign with the support of his tutor group. With £100 raised, some new kit to support his journey and their best wishes Matthew took a ferry to Ljmuiden and transferred to Harlingen before making his way onto the boat. From this point after some quick tuition Matthew was one of a crew of 14 sailors making their way back to the UK as part of the tall ships vogue. The accommodation was limited to say the least and Matthew endured some rough nights sealed into his bed within the cabin to make sure he didn't fall out when the boat rocked!

Out of 300 hours of sailing at least 200 was in one run sailing day and night on a shift rota through some challenging weather including a gale force 7 wind Matthew said he enjoyed the trip particularly swimming with the crew in the rare moments of down time and from our perspective he has clearly gained in self-confidence and maturity. I'm sure Matthew will wish ..... every success on their trip during the summer holidays next year

Our thanks to the rotary club of Ossett for supporting the activity through their organisational and financial support and particularly Sarah the Rotarian on board and their Partners Ocean Youth Trust North.



Come and join us.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT

Please come along to Highfield School's Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 28th September 2018, 9:30am - 11:00am

# Highfield Curriculum

Autumn term has seen the start of our planned curriculum changes at Highfield. At Highfield School we believe that our school's curriculum is much broader than subjects on a timetable. The school curriculum comprises all learning and other experiences that the school plans for its pupils. Pupils at the school have a range of needs that can change over time and in order to best support our learners the curriculum is highly personalised and continuously reviewed and developed. We seek to offer personalisation for a range of learners at different stages of development.

## Curriculum Aims

The aims of our curriculum are to provide a balanced and broad

experience for pupils which promotes their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development. We are committed to preparing our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life so that they may become actively involved in their community, contributing to society financially and living as independently as possible.

## A picture of the Highfield Curriculum

Our curriculum at Highfield School aim to enable all pupils to be:

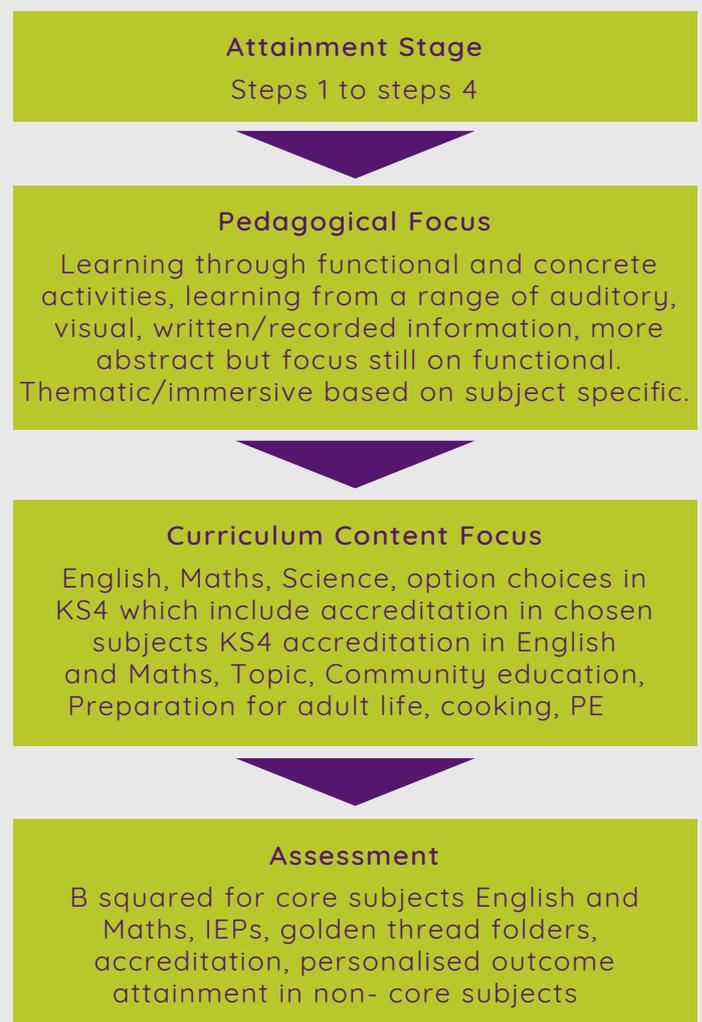
- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens

Our curriculum structure is tailored to meet the needs of the individual for our students in Key stage 3 and key stage 4 and as such we identify different pathways for our students which are:

### Semi-formal



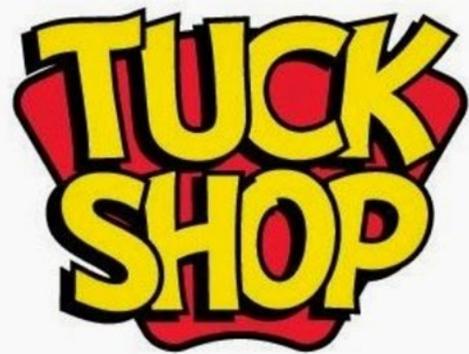
### Subject Specific Curriculum



# Post-16 News

## SSt Pre Internship Class

The post 16 pre internship class have made an excellent start with their pre internship programme of study. Over the past few weeks they have been learning how to dress appropriately for work and how to use public transport safely. Well done everyone! We have had a very promising start!



P16 LTW will be running a tuck shop on a morning when students come into school. There will be crisps, cereal bars and sugar free juice at 30p an item.

### Comics or Magazines?

Do you have any comics or magazines suitable for our students, that you have finished with? Please send them into school so that we can use them in our library.

## LTW

Whilst in the supermarket all students were shopping independently for items. Whilst I was observing a lady came over to me and asked if I was with the two girls and pointed at Beth Courtman and Emily Bate. I said I was with them and she told me that they were the politest young ladies she had ever come across.

All students have had another fantastic morning but this was a highlight. They really did (as usual) do Highfield proud.



## Signs of the Month

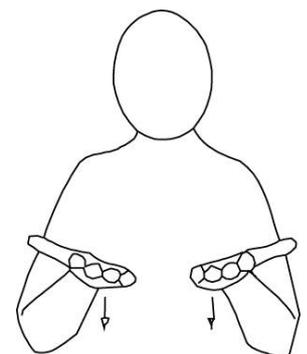


Deliberate movement, stop sign momentarily to match syllables in word

**Teacher**



**School**



**Now**



# 2018/2019 School Calendar

SEPTEMBER						
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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OCTOBER						
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29	30	31				

NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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31						

JANUARY						
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February						
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MARCH						
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APRIL						
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29	30					

MAY						
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27	28	29	30	31		

JUNE						
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JULY						
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29	30	31				

-  Bank Holidays
-  School Holidays
-  INSET Day