

Three Bridges Education Centre

Newsletter – September 2017

Overview

Welcome back to the new academic year. We trust that you all had a restful and enjoyable summer. It has been super seeing the students coming back refreshed after their holidays.

At the end of this half term, we are going to be celebrating with a disco on Friday 20th Oct from 5-6pm. We look forward to seeing many of you.

For this reason, all students will be finishing their school day at 1pm. We request the taxi drivers to collect your child at 1pm instead of 3pm on Friday 20th Oct, but please check with them nearer the time to avoid any misunderstandings.

Staff news

We have welcomed some new staff this term. Christine, Jaqueline and Fleur have joined our team of LSAs and Kyle has joined Jenna and Laura on our teaching team. We hope they will be very happy at Three Bridges.

E-Safety Updates

With newly updated legislation, there is a major focus around e-safety and safeguarding. As a school, we have a duty to support our students in understanding how to keep themselves safe online, we are also tasked with supporting parents around the issues of e-safety.

Technology is integral to the lives of our young people. The internet can promote creativity and assist with the development of key social skills. Conversely, it can also provide a medium whereby inappropriate mail and images can filter through, cyber bullying can take place and on-line grooming by predators can occur. These are just some of the potential risks to our young people that we must be

Upcoming Events

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School Disco

5-6pm 20th Oct

Half term

23rd Oct - 30th Oct

Inset Day

30th Oct

Term begins

31st Oct

Children in Need Day

17th November

News and Information

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[Click here for information on e-safety](#)

[Click here to read our most recent Ofsted Report](#)

Contact:

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kathleen.hampshire@spectrumasd.org

aware of and vigilant towards. Please use the link provided opposite to keep updated with guidance for parents.

Other News

Big Beach Day

On Thursday 7th September, some of our students attended the Big Beach Day which promotes the use of open spaces through a variety of sporting activities, arts and crafts and music therapy whilst providing information about being safe and healthy. We were able to take part in rock pooling, singing and signing and drumming and also took away some amazing freebies from the various companies involved with the Health Promotion Service and Change 4 Life. This was a fantastic day enjoyed by all, as these photos suggest.



New Technologies – Interactive Whiteboard

Over the summer, we have had an interactive whiteboard (IWB) installed in the hall. The board features some of the most up to date technology and really is changing the way we can deliver lessons. Unlike more traditional IWBs, our board runs over the top of other programmes on the computer. This means we can edit and annotate documents from other programmes. In practice, this means we can use the best bits of several different programmes and websites and blend them seamlessly into the lesson delivery and tasks set, making for an interactive and exciting experience for everyone.

Swimming

Previously, we have used Chycara for our swimming sessions and have been accommodated extremely well whilst using their facilities. With the new academic year,

we feel that our students would benefit from further developing their swimming and social skills through sessions at a public swimming pool. Therefore, on Friday mornings, some of our students will now be attending the public swim session at Waterworld, Newquay. This will be fully supported by our LSAs and Jenna will be supporting the students with the development of their water confidence, skills and swim techniques. Please ensure that students attending these sessions bring their swimming kit and towel to school each Friday.



Student on Observation

We have been very pleased to welcome an undergraduate student from Exeter University to work with us for two weeks of this term, as part of his course. He contacted us as the school he would like to visit due to his own diagnosis of ASD. He has been observing lessons, interacting with the students, advising students about research and study skills and introducing some of the students to the Penryn campus library. We are very grateful for his input and willingness to share his experiences and knowledge with us. It has been an extremely valuable opportunity for our students to meet such a positive role model.

EHCPs

Throughout the year the EHCP meetings will be taking place. All the dates have been arranged with County and we will send you an invitation six weeks before the meeting. If you would like to know the date of your child's EHCP in advance, please contact us.

Children in Need

Children in Need Day will be taking place on Friday 17th November. We will be collecting in aid of this charity and taking part in some fun activities. More details will follow nearer the time.

Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme

This year we are launching the highly accredited Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award at Three Bridges. We anticipate that during our first year of running the DofE, most of our students will have the opportunity to achieve their Bronze Award through the wonderful activities that they complete whilst at school.

The value of achieving a Duke of Edinburgh Award cannot be underestimated and it supports the development of young people for future life and work. The personal and non-competitive nature of the DofE programme enables participants from different and diverse starting points to be equally proud of achieving their award based on their own personal challenge and journey.

Through the DofE programme students will develop skills and attitudes they need to become more rounded, confident adults. Every section of a DofE programme gives young people an opportunity to be independent, to grow in confidence and to be challenged as an individual. There are four sections at Bronze level which include:

- Volunteering – undertaking service to individuals or the community.
- Physical – Improving an area of sport, dance or fitness.
- Skills – Developing practical and social skills and personal interests.
- Expedition – Planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey for 2 days and 1 night.

We are really excited about our students being given the opportunity to complete their Bronze DofE Award and we will be working closely with Karin Saunders who is a DofE Manager from Young People Cornwall who will be supporting aspects of the delivery alongside Jenna.

We will soon be sending out a letter inviting families to join us at an information event to discuss the DofE further and enroll the students onto their Bronze Award. If you have any queries or questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact Jenna who will be happy to provide you with any specific information required. Please look at the DofE website which is full of information and videos at <https://www.dofe.org/>



Contact & communication

We look forward to working hard, with the students, for the rest of this term, which ends on 20th December.

We will keep in touch with news and events through email and newsletters throughout the academic year. If you would like to make any suggestions or comments at any time, please feel free to contact us at the school: 01872 561010, via Kathleen's mobile: 07813 930824, by email: any of the teachers in the same format as

kathleen.hampshire@spectrumasd.org, or Sam, our admin assistant:
samantha.haining@spectrumasd.org

We look forward to hearing from you.