

## School Newsletter



### Headteacher Welcome

Dear school community,

We are looking forward to a busy half term ahead of us with a wonderful time of year up to Christmas and the festivities this brings!

Firstly, I would like to give an update on some changes to our staffing and give a warm thank you to Julia Percy who has left us as School Nurse. Julia has moved back to the NHS to take on a senior role and the school said a heartfelt goodbye to her before the half-term holiday. Julia's role is now delivered by qualified staff within the school who have specific training for the distribution of medications (in line with other special schools), our new medications policy is on our website. We also are going to say goodbye to Deb Matthysz our Subject Coordinator for Personal Development. Deb has been a long serving member of our team and has made significant contributions to our curriculum and enabled development of young people's independence. We wish her well in her new role. This term we have welcomed new staff who have joined our team because we have had new young people join our school community. This is an exciting time for the school and we have been working hard to develop our classrooms and learning environments inline with our growing school role.

Feedback has been given through the parent questionnaires indicates a closer link needs to be developed between parents and the school. This has been discussed with the trustees and agreed our reporting schedule will become a celebration and interaction with our school, with a paper based report once per year. I am pleased to announce we will be having two open days one before Christmas on Wednesday 15th December and the other before Easter. This will be a celebration of each term with our young people leading the open day. So we hope you will put the school Christmas Nativity and Open Day on the 15th December in your diaries and join us for a day of celebration, an opportunity to meet trustees, communicate and find out about your child's learning in school, whilst enjoying time together. Further details will be sent out nearer the time.

*Warmest Regards*

*Joanne Kiernan (BSc (Hons), PGCE, NPQdt, Fellow QLT)*

### Bailey The Dog Blog....

Woof! Hi school friends,

I love coming to school with mummy in the car on a morning. When she puts her shoes on I wait at the door and hope she will take me with her! I have made lots of new friends who give me treats and I wag my tail all day.

Mummy is making me my own timetable so I can spend time in the sensory room meeting my friends. I enjoy helping people who need a cuddle because they are feeling upset or anxious. Also, I have heard some super stories because my friends are excellent at reading them to me!



### Important Dates:

- 15/12 Christmas Open Day and Nativity
- 17/12 Last Day of Autumn Term  
Christmas Break

### SCHOOL INSET DAYS

4th and 5th January 2022

All Children Return To School

Spring Term 6th January 2022

Working Towards Independence with PRIDE



PRIDE

PEACE RESPECT INDEPENDENCE DETERMINATION EQUALITY

Hope House School



## Trips and Visits: Out and about at Hope House School

We have been going out and about into our communities this half term with trips to Riding for the Disabled (RDA), woodland walks, visits to the gym and also shopping for our food technology lessons.

It has been great to see all our young people interacting in our community and we are hoping to further extend our trips and visits in the Spring Term.

The RDA group has also seen Largo and he is very happy in his new home. He is now making many young people happy and really enabling improvements in riding.



## PRIDE Force Meetings

The PRIDE Force team have been leading Antibullying week and we are proud of them delivering readings to the school during our Assembly on Friday.

Ayisha has made a poem and has been so creative with her words.

Charlee has found a piece of writing that has meaning about bullying

Henry made a poster and has really shown his artistic abilities.

Sean was our MC and introduced the assembly.

We are now planning our Christmas event and cannot wait to see you there!

*Thank you Nicola Stafford PRIDE Force Leader*

## Curriculum Focus: Personal Development

Hope House School uses ASDAN as our qualification system. ASDAN provide a range of courses that provide pupils with a range of skills, both practical and theory, to allow them to participate fully in the wider community. All pupils are completing at least two ASDAN courses at any one time, giving them a wide breadth of knowledge and practical skills to allow them to navigate the wider world and relationships with people within those communities. We decided to re-brand and combine PSHE, RSE and Careers into one subject, since many topics overlap, and called it Personal Development. The NEW curriculum was introduced in September and compliments the ASDAN courses mentioned above. The curriculum has been developed from the PfA (Preparing for Adulthood) Outcomes from the DfE National Development Team for Inclusion and is mapped to the PSHE Associations framework for pupils with SEND.

Pupils are learning about themselves through a variety of activities which encourage them to reflect on and build their "personal" skills and qualities in addition to developing new ones. Pupils are encouraged to take more ownership of their learning and think about all the facets that make them an individual whilst also being aware of the similarities they have with others and how they "fit" into the wider world. Pupils learn to recognise their physical and mental attributes and discover how they think about and gauge the world around them. Our aim is for each of our pupils to become as independent as possible so they can make a valued contribution within society, feel valued themselves and have a happy and fulfilled future.

*Deb Matthysz and Emma Porter Subject Coordinator*