

## Back for Good!

It has been another very different term with some students in school and others working remotely. However, a big thank you once again to all of the students who have dealt with the situation so admirably and also to parents and carers for their support and flexibility. We have all been on a big learning curve and I can safely say we have mastered the art of the live lessons, online learning and virtual meetings. It is wonderful to have all of the students back to school for face to face learning- and let's hope it stays that way. We will be continuing the lateral flow testing of students and staff and the wearing of masks as recommended in the government guidance.

We have welcomed two new staff members this term, Clare and Aleksandra who have been appointed as LSAs. Also, new to the staff team is Bliss who is a bundle of fluffy canine fun and a great advocate of our accelerated reading programme - as she is blind she does rely on students reading to her but is very happy to settle down on a lap and listen!!

Activities in the community have been limited this term due to the lockdown but these should resume next term. In school we have had some star bakers and talented woodworkers making some brilliant products. We have also moved into our new building which has two light and airy classrooms.

Have a very happy Easter (Back to school on MONDAY 12th APRIL)

Jane - Headteacher



Spring Term 2021 Newsletter



## New building.

As you may have heard already, the new building is now completely finished and up and running, the building is now officially known as 'Willow'. Willow houses two classrooms, one being Thrive. Thrive is a social and emotional development programme which is designed to identify, repair area's in a child's development. The room consists of a hide away den, lounge bean bags and kitchen area.

## Bush craft.

This term, students have attended bush craft sessions at the Secret Garden. Some of the key skills the students have been developing are teamwork, fire safety, being curious with nature and shelter building.

### Keep spirits high!

Start of 2021 saw us celebrating 'Time to Talk Day' with the main message being the power of small - where small conversations have the power to make a big difference. Throughout the day there were lots of classroom activities based on mental wellbeing where students were able to explore and reflect on their feelings. During the time the students spent working from home I was able to send out many wellbeing worksheets which I had a very positive response to. Now we are back in school I am able to work with some students on a 1:1 basis on wellbeing sessions in school. I hope to work with many of the students on this basis!

As you can see from the attached picture, I have been busy making some colourful wellbeing displays in school which include lots of helpful information for both students and staff.



### Ready to read!

This half term we have launched our accelerated reading scheme across the school. Students have been taking baseline assessment tests which have allowed them to choose their own book to read, that is at an appropriate level. Students have also been taking quizzes to see how well they've understood the book once they've completed it. Everyone is doing a great job during our reading sessions twice a week. It has been lovely to see so many of our students engaging with and enjoying reading sessions. Britany - Accelerated reading lead



### Farmyard fun!

This term we have had great fun and haven't let the weather dampen our moods. It has been more animal lead work with time spent on enrichment with the animals including the dogs, pigs and sheep. Many students have faced fears and overcome nerves to join in. There has been a lot of mud and floods but that has just added to all the fun. Well done all on working hard but still having fun.

Nina - Farm + Humanities tutor



### Out and about!

Laura took Blake and Jay for a walk near March prison during a recent Leisure lesson. During this lesson both students engaged with discussions around a memorial that is located where a Wellington bomber crashed. Both students noticed that the memorial was missing a wreath and decided to find it to return it, once they found the missing wreath they worked together efficiently to retrieve the wreath and returned it to the memorial, placing it carefully so the wind couldn't blow it off again. Both students showed compassion for the subject and used great teamwork in order to repair the memorial.

Ryan - SMSC Lead



### Experiment time!

During this term we have done some really fun experiments with our students. Our first one we started with is the egg experiments where the egg become bouncy and then we got it to change colour through the process of osmosis. We have also made lava lamps in my classroom which was loads of fun due to the amount of mess we made! Our favourite experiment so far has been elephant toothpaste; it could have gone better but it was still very fun.

Joana - Science tutor

