



HLA News

Friday 8th December 2023



Dear Families,

This week has been extremely busy with lots of visitors – very productive!

We have had visitors from the Local Authority on Monday who were coming to gain an insight into the needs of all of our learners. This will help them to inform the placement planning process as we grow. They commented on the great support that we provide for our learners. On Tuesday we were visited by our CEO Lynsey Holzer and her colleague Jeremy Rowe. They came to talk to us about our approaches to behaviour at our school. They loved how calm and purposeful our environment is and were impressed at the positive relationships and culture we had developed here.

Key Stage 4 also had a visitor this week to talk about career options. Angie Vickery who is the 14-25 Additional Needs Pathway Advisor came to work with the students with regards to discussing their next steps. We have also just added some additional information for parents and carers to the Preparing for Adulthood section of the website.

Could I please remind you that if your child will not be attending school for any reason please can you ensure that you make contact with us at school? Calls need to be made to the office by 9am every day and if no-one answers please leave a message.

Our Christmas Café and Shop was a great success today. It was great to see the students applying their social, communication and money skills ready for adulthood. Don't forget our Christmas Fairs taking place next week where parents and carers are invited.

This week I have observed some excellent work on promoting communication within the early years. It is fantastic to see some students beginning to communicate through the use of PECS where previously their communication was limited. As we move through the school our students communication through writing has been fantastic this week. Students in S1 and S2 have written some excellent letters to Santa and will be applying their life skills by walking to the post box to post them. Students in S3 and S4 have been working on newspaper articles. A student in S3 gave a brilliant verbal description of the different features she needed to include in her writing. One student in S4 wrote an excellent piece of independent writing applying all of the grammatical skills he had learnt. Fantastic application of previous learning – well done everyone!

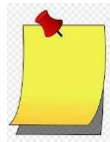
As a school we want to provide parents and carers with information that you find useful. In order to help us track this we use Class Dojo. If you have read some information on there that you have found useful please click the 'love' button. This will help us understand what sort of information to share and what not to.

I hope you have a good weekend.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Head of School



Important Information



- Please ensure you return your computer usage forms back to school as soon as possible so that we do not have any disruption to learning
- We are on week 3 for the lunch menu this coming week.
- Please remember to complete and return your parent/carer comments sheets prior to your child's Annual Review meeting. We need to ensure we capture everyone's views.
- We will all be wearing our Christmas Jumpers on Wednesday 20th December as it is our last day at school. There will be no charge for this. We will not be taking part in the paid charitable event.
- Invite slips have already been sent out but just a reminder - Lower School Christmas Fair 13/12/23 1.30pm School Hall, Upper School Christmas Fair 14/12/2023 1.30pm School hall
- Please remember we are a NUT FREE school due to severe allergies.

School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was 90.7%. This is an improvement on last week – thank you for working with us to improve school attendance. Please remember that any applications for absences during school term time will not be authorised.

Online Safety Tip of the Week:

Do not open anything from people you don't recognise.

Always be aware when receiving emails, images, or texts. Harmful viruses and messages can be sent so think carefully before opening something that looks unfamiliar.

Emotion of the Week:



This week's emotion is SHAME. Try to talk about how your child might be feeling, what their body feels like when they experience this emotion and what they can do to understand and react to them.

Mental Health Tip of the Week:

What you eat and drink can have a big impact upon your mental health and wellbeing.

