



HLA News



Friday 11th October 2024

Dear Families,

As we head nearer to the first half term holiday it is lovely to see how the vast majority of our students have settled and engaging in learning.

Our new kitchen and dining hall is now being used every day and students are continuing to demonstrate their independence and social skills well. It is pleasing to see that the skills they have learnt in the classroom are being nicely generalised in different areas of the school. Students are transitioning beautifully around the school too.

We are still moving forward with our planning for the 50 place extension. We have some contractors who are coming on to site during the half term holiday to look at the structural complexities of joining the first floor of the extension to the school. It is great how considerate they have been already to ensuring the students have a settled experience with the work still continuing. The planning application is still live and can be viewed on the Littleport and East Cambridgeshire planning portal.

Thank you to all of the parents for registering and linking in with Arbor. It has made our systems of absence reporting on the day much smoother. We are hoping they will add the functionality to add pre-booked appointments soon. They are very receptive to our needs and this is being worked on by the developments team. We still have 4 families who are not registered, please do contact the school office for support with this as it is essential that everyone is connected.

Next week we will be hosting our Moving On event in our school hall. This is for parents and carers of students in years 9, 10 and 11 for essential information linked to student's next steps. There will be a variety of providers present who can share essential information about courses and social firms with provision for all learners.

This week your child's school photograph would have been sent home. Thank you for all of the lovely comments about our change of provider. The experience was a lot less stressful for some of our more complex needs learners and there were some beautiful photographs taken. If you would like to order please return the completed order form along with the full payment in the envelope provided to the school office. Cheques need to be made payable to Elgood Photography.

This week some of our students also enjoyed the touring pantomime 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarves'. This linked in so well with our classroom learning topic of traditional tales. Our learners interacted very well with the performance. They found it hilarious that the staff were encouraged to join in too! Take a look on Class Dojo for some photos.

This week our students have been doing some great learning focussed around our learning values. Key Stage 4 applied their great team work skills in their Active Play session this week. It has been fabulous to see how independence is being encouraged with learners in Robins and Owls. All of these skills will be essential in preparing our learners for their next steps into adult life.

Have a lovely weekend.

With all best wishes,

Yvonne Skillern

Headteacher



Important Information



- Please ensure that you connect to both Arbor and Evidence for Learning so that you are kept up to date with all school activities. Everyone has been sent a password so please make sure you connect. If you need an invite please do let us know.
- We are holding a Moving On event for parents of students currently in year 9, 10 and 11. This will be held on Thursday 17th October between 4.30pm and 6.30pm in our school hall. Here we can share information about student's next steps and what options are available with a variety of providers in attendance.
- Class funds donations (a recommended value of £10) are paid for termly through Arbor
- We try to promote healthy choices of food for students at lunchtimes. We understand that some of our learners have specific tastes and sensory needs but we ask for you to please work with us to help your child make healthy choices.
- Please remember we are a **NUT FREE** school due to severe allergies. This includes sun creams and other products.

School Attendance

This week's whole school attendance was 90.8%. This is better than last week, thank you for working with us to improve attendance. Please remember any school term time holidays will not be authorised. **According to new direction from the trust families who take unauthorised holidays during term time will be face a penalty notice.**

Online Safety Tip of the Week:

Be careful where you click
It's best to use websites that you know and trust. Always look for a security padlock icon in the top left hand corner of a page before you register financial or personal information on a website. If an online deal sounds too good to be true, it quite probably is.

Emotion of the Week - Fear



Try to talk to your child about fear and how this makes them and their body feel. Talk about how we can manage these big feelings and stop them becoming 'too big'.

Mental Health Tip of the Week:

Accept who you are.
Some of us make people laugh, some are good with numbers or words, others cook amazing meals. We are all different in some way - and that's OK.