



A centre of excellence for inspiring successful futures

Message from the Head

Firstly, thank you to all our parents who have supported the Centre throughout the year. It has been an incredible year with our staff and students working really hard to address barriers to learning both inside and outside of the classroom. We have seen many of our young people challenge themselves and move beyond their comfort zone. All students have made progress in one or more areas of the curriculum. Angel and Ella deserve special mention for their musical achievements. Allan, Madie and Tommy have not had a single behaviour point.

There are many changes ahead with us opening a KS4 Centre in September, so we are growing in size—enabling us to offer much needed local provision for local students.

All that remains is for me to reiterate my thanks to our students, parents, staff, management committee and our outside partners for a hugely successful year. Have a great summer!

Dan Nearney - Headteacher

Staff Changes and New Additions at our growing Centre

Most of you will be aware that there are some changes afoot at the ESC. We have been successful in bidding to take on KS4 Students at the ESC, so from September our Centre will be expanding to include students in Years 10 and 11 (aged 15-16).

Lots of work has been going on 'behind the scenes' to prepare for this exciting development. Our Senior Leadership Team have spent time dealing with Hertfordshire County Council working on the physical plans for the building expansion and the refurbishment required. New staff have been recruited, including Shelly Hughes who, as KS4 Alternative Provision Manager, has been meeting with the KS4 students and their parent/carers to establish students needs and to work on producing a timetable which can be individually tailored to students. Shelley has also been making links with local businesses and other education providers in order that students can gain as much variety of education and work experience as possible.

Other new staff recruited and starting in September include Mrs Skeggs who will teach KS4 Maths, Mr Evans, our new KS4 PE and Maths teacher, Mr Pickering who will provide Construction and Design Tech classes and Miss Sawyer, who will teach KS3 English in place of Mrs Elvin, who moves to KS4. We have recruited 2 new Teaching Assistants - Miss Kirby and Mrs Lockyer, and Miss Hooker is our new Higher Learning Teaching Assistant (HLTA). The Centre Admin team has also grown, with new staff member Mrs Howard joining us in June and Mrs Griffith who will start in September.

This is an exciting time for the Centre and we look forward to welcoming our KS3 and KS4 students in September - a slightly later start date this year due to home visits and final preparations (please see Term Dates at the end of this newsletter).

Lonsdale School Paired Reading with Pupils this term

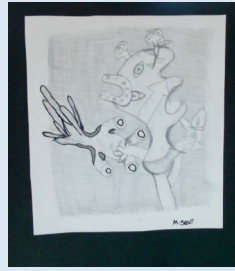
For 8 sessions on a Monday and Tuesday Mrs Paul has been accompanied by students Madie, Ella and Ellie-May to hear some of the primary school aged children at Lonsdale school read. Lonsdale is a school for physically and neurologically impaired young people aged from 3 to 18 years. The Lonsdale pupils really enjoyed reading to our students.

Cromwell Hotel Restaurant visit for Amarian

Recently Amarian visited the Cromwell Hotel in the Old Town to meet with the Head chef of their restaurant 'The Rump and Wade'. Amarian was able to find out about what it is like to work in a busy, successful kitchen environment and Amarian has been offered the opportunity of work experience there in the future!

Art and Awareness

As Part of Art Curriculum embedded in our eTwinning Project "Art and Awareness", students had been exploring what they can see from a Symbolic point of view on the mural sized oil painting entitled 'Guernica' by Spanish artist Pablo Picasso completed in June 1937. The painting was created in response to the bombing of Guernica, a Basque Country village in northern Spain, by Nazi Germany. Alongside 8 other countries we looked into the symbolic meaning behind Guernica. Students reflected on the message and the meta-message of the painting, put in historic context and transfer it's value to present times.



Social Development at SESC

During our Social Development lessons our partner ELSA, who deliver careers guidance, brought a young man in who was on work experience. This is his view of his visit to us:

"Today I really enjoyed the work I did. I went to a school for excluded children where we worked with the young people to have fun with some dogs. The dogs and their owner Jon were brilliant with the children, allowing them freedom to do what they wanted while they still had fun. The dogs in particular were helpful in giving the young people a comfortable setting to open up and reveal more about their lives. Jon also had an amazing character and gave the children stories of his life and how he became a dog trainer, engaging them. They themselves were amazing and it was for me a real eye opener to how excluded young people can act and how it isn't always their fault that they are in their situations.

Another person who I met was a survivor of domestic abuse.

She explained to me her story in her own words and was an absolutely incredible person. Her story gave me an understanding of how people who are subjected to domestic abuse live and how difficult it is for them when they are put in their situation.

The staff at the school were all very kind and lovely people. They had grasped a real understanding of the young people as individuals and how their lives worked. They were supportive and did not push the children to do anything they didn't want to do.

In doing this experience I have gained valuable knowledge on the lives of young people who have been excluded and valuable knowledge of how to help people who are in dangerous physical and mental situations. I also built my confidence in meeting and talking to new people and changed my perspective on people who have or are being domestically abused."

In English lessons with Mrs Elvin, students have been working on poetry within their 'crime' unit. The poem 'About her person' was composed by Leon. Well done Leon!

About her person

In her pocket was a knife
Was it used to lose her life



In her pocket she had a gun
She shot someone for fun

She had a drink
So she can think

She had cuts
So there was blood

She found a key in her pocket
She got the door and locked it

She got a cup of tea
Then she spilt it on her knee
She was in pain
She saw the killer she could not get away

PE and Extra-Curricular Activities

This term students have once again visited Fairlands Valley Outdoor Activity Centre where activities have been building on students fitness and perseverance. We have also been on several 10km bike rides in and around Stevenage. Other activities that students have participated in are; canoeing, high ropes and rowing.

We also visited the beautiful Grafham Water where students cycled 18km through picturesque woodlands.

Recently students had the privilege of visiting a shooting range to participate in archery, and rifle and pistol shooting.



Karting in Letchworth was exciting with all students having fun and being very competitive. Ellie-May was the fastest student on the track, well done Ellie-May.

Wicksteed Park saw the sun shining and all students having fun on various rides such as 'Sway Rider', 'Dropslide' and the 'Tree Top Walk'.

It is hoped that students have enjoyed most of, if not all, the activities they have participated in. These experiences go a long way to enriching lives and giving life long skills that are so valuable.

Information from Hertfordshire County Council

HCC to secure school site for the long term

Ashtree Primary School (and the adjacent former secondary school site) are currently held in county council ownership on a long lease. This lease has less than 50 years to run. To permanently secure both the Ashtree Primary School site and the adjacent former secondary school site, the county council plans to make a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) to acquire the freehold of this land.

As part of this process, public notices will be put up on the gates of the school site, this is likely to happen towards the end of next week. The notices will inform people of the CPO process and these will also appear in the local newspaper.

Activities for Young People with SEND

A wide range of activities for young people with additional needs in Hertfordshire are available over the summer. Additional information, guidance and support can be obtained through the KIDS Hubs detailed below, or search 'Activities for Young People with SEND pdf' online.

KIDS East HUB, Divot Place, Hertford, SG13 7SP, Tel: 01992 504013

KIDS West HUB, Albanwood, Watford, WD25 7BZ, Tel: 01923 676549

Email: hub.herts@kids.org.uk

Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND)

News and information for parents and carers of children with additional needs

You can access free online news and information about inclusive sports, courses, support for parents, carers and young people and much more, from Hertfordshire Additional Needs Database (HAND). Their latest newsletter is available to view at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/handnews

OUR STAFF (from September 2018):

Headteacher: Dan Nearney

Deputy Head: Anne-Marie O'Sullivan

Assistant Head: Liz Elvin

Assistant Head and KS4 Provision Manager: Shelley Hughes

Teaching Staff, including Outreach:

James Anderson, Liz Elvin, Mike Evans, Rony Ford, Paula Hayward, Kelly Parker, Iain Pickering, Amy Sawyer, Sarah Skeggs, Tina Stanley

Back on Track:

Kelly Parker, Tina Stanley, Gill Briars, Jenny Lake, Kerry Paul

HLTA: Donna Hooker

Teaching Assistants: Gillian Briars, Jess Kirby, Jenny Lake, Sarah Lockyer, Kerry Paul

Primary Transition Support Workers:

Helen Fleet, Nicole Robinson

Secondary Outreach Support Workers:

Liane Murphy, Laura Read

Schools Business Manager: Heidi Nash

Admin: Liz Gera, Joanne Griffith, Jenny Howard, Emma Saunders

Stevenage ESC Term Dates for 2018-19

AUTUMN TERM

INSET (ESC closed to Students): 3rd & 4th September 2018

ADMISSIONS MEETINGS AND HOME VISITS: 5th - 14th September 2018

FIRST DAY FOR KS4 STUDENTS: 10th September 2018

FIRST DAY BACK FOR KS3 STUDENTS: 17th September 2018

HALF TERM: 29th October - 2nd November 2018

OCCAISIONAL DAY (ESC closed): Friday 7th December

LAST DAY OF TERM: 21st December 2018, 12.30pm finish

SPRING TERM

7th January - 5th April 2019

Half Term: 18th - 22nd February 2019

SUMMER TERM

23rd April - 24th July 2019

Half Term: 27th - 31st May 2019

(INSET: 22nd, 23rd and 24th July)