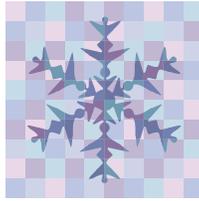


# Hospital and Outreach Education PRU

## Parents/Carers Newsletter

### Autumn 2015



Hi everyone,

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. I hope you find the information useful and dare I say it – interesting!

I wanted to tell you about a couple of changes that have happened since we started in September. You may have noticed some new staff – Kirsty has started at our Delapre Centre and Louise at The Gatehouse. We are delighted to welcome them to the team.

I hope you have noticed that we are trying to smarten up our bases to make them more welcoming. The Gatehouse has had a complete makeover and I certainly feel that it is a much more pleasant place to learn. Delapre has had some external paintwork completed, with the internal work planned over the forthcoming breaks. We know how important it is for our pupils to feel comfortable and if your environment looks cared for, then that's how it makes you feel.

You may have heard in the news about school's new duty to prevent children and young people from being radicalised: it is called 'The Prevent Duty'. As we operate like a school, then we shall also be making our pupils aware. We don't necessarily teach this as a discrete subject, but use opportunities for discussion that arise in our Religious Education and Personal, Social and Health Education sessions. There is a leaflet for parents explain what it is all about on our website in the parent's area ([www.nhoe.org.uk](http://www.nhoe.org.uk)). Please let the office know if you would like to have a paper copy.

This year we are working towards two external accreditations, the Artsmark and Career Mark. This is so we can compare what we do to national standards and check we are providing the best education we can to our pupils. Watch out for some more news on these in future newsletters.

You will have received a letter from me by now about our possible conversion to an alternative provision academy. This is because the local authority is cutting down on the number of staff that they employ, and we feel that the only way to truly protect our service is to become an academy. No decision has yet been made. We will look at the feedback from the consultation and then the Governing Body will make a decision at their next meeting in February about whether to go forward with the plan or not. There will be further information coming out by post and in the next newsletter, but please feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Finally, I wish you and your family a restful Christmas and a happy and healthy 2016.

Kind regards

Cath

Head Teacher  
Hospital & Outreach Education

### **Management Committee**

Unlike a school who have a Governing Body who are responsible for the running of the school, a pupil referral unit like HOE has a 'Management Committee'. They function exactly like a Governing Body, and meet 3 times a year to challenge and steer the provision. There are also an additional 3 meetings a year for sub committees for finance and resources, and learning and curriculum.

Our current chair of the Management Committee is **Frances Jones** and can be reached through our Delapre office.



### **Outcomes from last year's pupils**

We like to let you know how the pupils we supported last year got on in their external examinations. In the last academic year, we supported 39 pupils who were taking GCSEs exams and the pupils had been with us for varying lengths of time: all pupils got at least one external qualification. 48% of the cohort got at least 5 GCSEs A\* - G, all included Maths & English and 21% of pupils gained 5 or more GCSEs A\* - C and 18% of those included Maths & English.

73% of pupils returned to school successfully. 94% of our leavers are in employment, further education or training.

We are very proud of all of our pupils!

### **Activities contributions**

Please can we remind you we require a voluntary contribution of £1 per week towards activities and refreshments we provide for our students. Many thanks.



## Delapre Abbey Photographic Trip



Our students from both bases were privileged to attend a photographic workshop recently at Delapre Abbey in Northampton which is in the throes of a multimillion pound restoration programme.

On a beautiful autumnal day we investigated the use of light and shade in the photographs we took. The students were treated to a sneaky peek of the restorations inside the building too and we have been invited back in the future to see how the work is developing.

*Agnes Anderson*

## Curriculum information

### **ICT and Preparation for Working Life – subject updates**

In the run up to Christmas our students at both bases will continue to study Functional Skills ICT. They have already covered file management, spreadsheets and internet searches. We have just begun a unit of work to develop DeskTop Publishing skills for the production of cards, posters, leaflets, menus etc... This will lead on to the students revising the creation of making an onscreen presentation using multimedia software.



The ICT lessons will enable the students to consolidate their transferrable skills for use in the 'Enterprise' module for the Preparation for Working Life course which requires the students to plan, prepare, market and produce a range of seasonal goods to sell at our Christmas Coffee mornings at both Delapre & the Gatehouse on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The profit of any subsequent sales will go towards the purchase of food supplies for our local Foodbanks and our supported charity Karuri.



### **Art/Photography**

We have several pupils studying Art and Photography this year. We began by looking at Natural Forms and the students have taken this theme and are producing some very good work.

Can we ask that if you are having days out you encourage the pupils to take photographs as these may be useful for the topic they are studying at the moment or for their exam topic after Christmas.

## **English**

In English we have been drafting out a piece of coursework on being 'Proud to be British'. The students have researched what it means to be a British citizen and are now writing a magazine style article persuading British teenagers to feel proud of their country. Next term we will begin to prepare ourselves for the English exam and we will complete a final piece of coursework.

## **PSHE**

This term we have been exploring our Emotional Wellbeing which has included research into the way our bodies respond to stress and how we can manage stress in our everyday lives. A big thank you to Rachel for providing a Yoga tester session! Next term we will be learning about Drugs and their dangers.

## **Mathematics**

During the first two terms of this school year we have covered work on number and statistics in preparation for GCSE examination next summer. For students who have missed any of this work, or who just want to consolidate the learning that has taken place, some booklets are available for use with the MathsWatch CD's. Booklets and CD's are available from your Maths Teacher.

## **Science**

We have covered the following topics in Biology this term: Pathogens, Healthy Lifestyles, Genetics & Inheritance, Evolution and Variation. All students who have attended have made positive contributions to lessons and have achieved well in their Biology mock. We are now onto the Chemistry unit and have already looked at atoms, the Periodic Table, Metals and Fuels. Students will be completing their coursework in the New Year which is 25% of their overall GCSE grade.

## **Write Stuff – Creative Writing and Poetry sessions**

We got off to a brilliant start this term, looking at what makes good descriptive, imaginative and lively writing, with lots of exercises that have sparked the pupil's to show great potential with their individual writing voices! It is a pleasure working together and I am excited about their talent! *Lucy Anderson, Poet.*

## **Active**

Active on a Friday afternoon continues to be popular this year. We undertake to provide the opportunity to engage in a variety of sport activities including Unihock, Badminton, Basketball and Roller Skating. Can we ask that you make sure your son/daughter comes with the appropriate footwear (not black soled) and some bottled water as enthusiasm sometimes runs high!



## **Work experience**

The work experience week for pupils in Northampton, Daventry and South Northants will be the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016. This is the week before half term. We will be doing sessions at the base and in outreach settings to prepare our students and we will have a parent's information evening nearer the time.

## **Parent time**

We are continuing the successful 'Parent Time' session for parents to get together with a few helpful ideas from us thrown in! We are planning one afternoon session and one evening session over the next 2 terms. The dates will be on the website after Christmas in the parent section.

**Save the Date!**

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am-11.30am is the HOE Christmas coffee morning with a chance to buy the famous Karuri bags and win huge (!) prizes on the raffle and tombola! We look forward to seeing you there.

All family members and friends welcome!



**Beckworth Emporium skating trip**

Letters have gone out for the end of term trip to Beckworth Emporium for ice skating and lunch on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If your child would like to go and you have not yet received a letter, please telephone Delapre to request one.



Delapre Learning Centre will close at 12

midday on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December for the

Christmas break.

All of the staff and Management Committee from HOE wish you and your family a happy and healthy Christmas break and every good wish for 2016.

Any feedback on any of the issues in this newsletter? Please contact us:

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