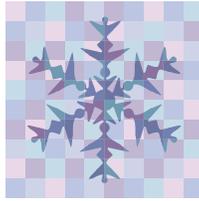


Hospital and Outreach Education PRU

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). 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 are 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.



It's all change at HOE – out with the old and in with the new.



During the summer holidays the mobiles and the bungalow had a make over. During June and July a number of staff at the Gatehouse were kept busy sorting and packing everything in the mobile classrooms and the bungalow. Many trips were made to a local charity shop, which means books and games no longer needed have gone to a good cause. The last few days of term were spent frantically packing and labelling green plastic crates and throwing unwanted and damaged furniture into the skip. We all helped pick a new colour scheme for walls, doors blinds, and floors.

When we arrived back in September we were all pleasantly surprised at the amount of space we had. The entrance hall is now big enough to house a small round table and chairs for students and staff to sit at. The computer benches that took up so much room have now gone and the classrooms look spacious.

The outside has also been painted to give a more welcoming appearance. New furniture has been delivered and the whole place feels so different. We are all really pleased with the overall results and we hope you agree that we have created a pleasant working environment for both staff and students.



After years of using our old and faithful but dated computers and software, we arrived into the 21st Century during the summer re-furbishment project.



Staff and students alike are delighted with our new equipment and software. We are currently using the ASUS 13.5inch flipbooks which are modern, versatile and portable. The flipbooks allows the user to turn the HD screen any which way to use it as a laptop, tablet or anything in between.

Enrichment Activities – Term 1 and 2.

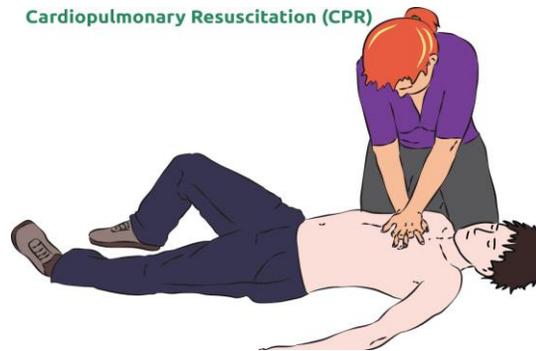
Delapre Abbey Photographic trip.

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.

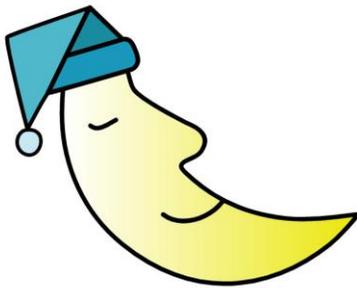
On a beautiful autumnal day we investigated the use of light and shade in the photographs we took. The students were treated to a sneaky peek of the restorations inside the building too and we have been invited back in the future to see how the work is developing. *Agnes Anderson*

First Aid

On Wednesday 2nd December we welcomed 3 ladies from the Red Cross to our base in Kettering. We had an excellent session on basic first aid, and now we all feel more confident if faced with someone who is bleeding, choking, or has burnt themselves. If someone has tripped over, or even stopped breathing!



Sleep Solutions



Karen from Sleep solutions came to talk to students about the benefits of having a healthy night's sleep. These few steps have been proven to help get a good night's rest.

- Limit the screen time – ALL screens off 60 minutes before sleep.
- Don't go to bed hungry, she talked about having a light snack about an hour before bed, but to avoid sugar and caffeine.
- Keep to the same bedtime rituals so your body knows what to expect, slow your body down and go to bed in a cool, dark, quiet room.

Karen has been booked to give a short talk to parents during our Parent Time session on Wednesday 9th of March.

GCSE 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 18th 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.

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.

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.

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

This term we have been to Kettering Bowling Alley. We have learnt how to select the correct weight ball, how to bowl, the scoring and the rules of the game. Students who have attended for 6 weeks will have achieved an AQA Unit Award.

Food Technology

The students have been learning about healthy eating and trying out different nutritional recipes. This is one that has proved a favourite with staff and students.

Tomato Soup

450g of fresh ripe tomatoes
2 onions peeled and chopped
1 stick of celery finely chopped
1 clove of garlic peeled and crushed
1 carrot peeled and diced finely
2 stock cubes
1 pint of water
2 tbsp olive oil
1 tsp sugar
Salt and freshly ground pepper
Handful fresh basil, shredded.



1. Heat the oil in a large saucepan and add the onions, carrot, celery and garlic. Cover the pan and cook for 10mins
2. Add the sugar, salt, pepper and tomatoes. Stir and cook for another 5 mins.
3. Add the stock, bring to the boil and simmer for 10mins. Liquidise until smooth. If using basil stir in at the end.

Work experience



The work experience week for students at the Gatehouse will be the week beginning 8th February 2016. This is the week before half term. Options for work experience will be discussed with students, and placements will be organised through Connexions by Carmel our Careers advisor.

Our next 'Parent Time' session will be on Friday 8th January from 3pm till 4.30. This will be led by Carmel, who will share with you the work she has been covering in careers, all the information about the forthcoming work experience and answer any questions you have. We hope you will be able to join us.

End of Term Information

Beckworth Emporium skating trip

Letters have gone out for the end of term trip to Beckworth Emporium for ice skating and lunch on Thursday 17th December. If your child would like to go and you have not yet received a letter, please ask or telephone the Gatehouse.

Coffee Morning

Friday 18th December 10am-11.30am is the Gatehouse Christmas coffee morning.



All family members and friend welcome



Dates for your diary.

Friday 8th January 3pm – 4.30pm 'Parent Time' – Careers and work experience.

Tuesday 15th March 3pm – 4.30pm - Meet the Staff. A big thank you to all of you who came to the 'Meet the Staff' time in October. We plan to repeat this again in March. So please call in, have a cup of tea and some cake, and talk informally to the staff who teach your young people.

Wednesday 9th March - Parent Time' – Sleep Solutions

The Gatehouse will close at 12 midday on Friday 18th 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:

Cath Kitchen
Head Teacher
01604 662250

ckitchen@northamptonshire.gov.uk

