



THE HOLMEWOOD
SCHOOL



National
Autistic
Society

Accredited
Advanced
2020



Newsletter

Friday 09 July 2021

Dear Families,

We find ourselves at the end of another academic year at Holmewood, and hasn't this been a strange one?

While this will be the final full newsletter of the Summer term, we will write to you next week to announce the recipients of the Student of the Year Awards, which will be announced in a ceremony at Woodside Park on Monday afternoon. This will be a lovely celebration of achievement across the school.

Not every student at Holmewood will win an award on Monday, but I do want to say how proud I am of each and every one of them for their resilience and perseverance in this difficult year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parents for their support throughout the year as well as all of the Holmewood Staff for their commitment and dedication. Together, we have made it through this unprecedented time with mostly smiles on our faces.

I do hope you are able to relax and enjoy the summer ahead. I look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Ms Camilleri

Executive Head Teacher

Dates For Your Diary

- **Mon 12th July** - Student of the Year awards (whole school)
- **Wed 14th July** - Sports Day at Dwight School (9am - 12 noon)
- **Wed 14th July** - End of term
- **Thurs 15th July** - Inset day

Inclusion In Action

There are many important rite of passage events that mark the transition from childhood to adulthood. True inclusion is ensuring that young people with special needs are given the opportunity to mark these times of celebration in a way that is fun, memorable and meaningful to them.

In previous years we hired a theatre for the Sixth Form Prom, though with Covid regulations this option wasn't viable this year. Last year our prom was cancelled completely, so we really felt it was important to ensure the event went ahead this year.

We decided to hold the event in the grounds at Muswell Hill. A dedicated team of staff have been setting time aside each week this term to plan the Prom. There was a detailed action plan with different jobs allocated. As the event was to take place predominantly outdoors, one of the main actions was for the weather to behave itself. We had been experiencing some difficulties with this.

When Friday the 2nd of July rolled around, we sighed with relief that the weather decided to follow the action plan. When the students left school, the team lept into action and for hours we ran around, blowing up balloons, installing decorations, setting up games, preparing food and organising the music.

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On arrival, the sharply dressed students walked the red carpet and were given a glass of non-alcoholic sparkling prosecco. Those attending were the current cohort of sixth form students, but as always we had some very special alumni students joining us too. We all enjoyed a meal together, laughed, talked, played and danced. But most importantly, we all had fun.



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When it was over, staff bade farewell to the students and continued working to clean up the party. Our cheeks were sore from smiling, and our bodies were spent after our 14 hour day.

If you ask any of the staff why they volunteered for this mammoth task, I feel pretty confident they would all say the same thing: 'we do it for the kids'. It has become a bit of a slogan around here.

I would like to express my gratitude to the staff and parents of Holmewood for their commitment to the vision this year. The 2020-2021 academic year has been one for the history books. While it may have nearly broken us, our resolve and commitment to inclusion for our young people has never wavered. We are heading into a future with renewed resilience and the knowledge that with the right support, our young people can achieve wonderful things.

Perhaps most importantly, they are having fun doing it.

Ms Young

Head of Upper School

It's Coming HOLMEwood!

Good to luck to England, against Italy, in the final of Euro 2020 which is taking place this Sunday at 8pm.

In true patriotic red and white spirit, Metropolitan students have decorated their classroom with England flags!

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It is England's first international football final since the World Cup Final of 1966. After over 50 years of hurt we look forward to the team bringing the Euro trophy home!

Holmewood Receives The Big Award

We are delighted to announce that we have once again been awarded the BIG Award, now for 2021-2022.



This anti-bullying initiative has been led by staff member Chelsea Foreman, ably supported by Ryan Liston. Our students from the anti-bullying steering groups on both sites have also made a huge contribution, meeting regularly to tackle relevant issues around the topic of bullying.



Many congratulations to all those involved, and keep up the whole School approach!

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After their exhausting term, our gorgeous School bunnies will need loving holiday homes for the full seven weeks of the summer.

This is a great opportunity to learn about animal care skills, and our bunnies are all super duper mental health champions although they can be cagey a lot of the time..

If you would like to host a pair of bunnies, please do get in touch with Ms Lempaszek (ilempaszek@thsl.org.uk).



It has come to the end of another year and what an adventure it has been...

Elizabeth class have had a great term on their journey through the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh with Ms Mansfield. They have displayed teamwork and resilience on their training and this has culminated in completing a two day expedition. The boys have been fantastic and excellent ambassadors for the school, integrating with the public and performing public services such as litter picking. It's a fantastic achievement and we are all very proud of them.



The class also had their reward trip to Thorpe Park, a great day out with the group. All were on top behaviour and everyone had a wonderful time going on all sorts of rides, huge respect for Ms Young who took the super brave group who wanted to go on the really big rides.



This week we are getting ready for the OT Food Festival on Friday with the students batching up some amazing cookies to sell.



It has been a fantastic year for the whole class, time to get a well earned break and prepare for the transition to the Upper School in September.

Well done Elizabeth class!

Mr Shearer

Elizabeth Class Teacher



Hello, Parents and Carers.

I can hardly believe that I am writing our final newsletter of the academic year. Where has the year gone?!

It has flashed before my eyes, however, the progress and the confidence Metropolitan has gained has been inspiring.



For our final newsletter, I am going to give shout outs to the class for their amazing year.

Metropolitan shout out moments:

Reuben - for bringing the class many jokes and continuous banter. We have all seen a huge change in Reuben, one being college. It has been wonderful to see you interacting and playing football with the students at college. I hope that next year brings you more opportunities like this.

Well done, Reuben! We are so proud of you.

Ediz - for going above and beyond with your artwork. You identified that you wanted to improve your drawing skills and have since been watching videos on youtube where you have drawn amazing werewolves and Eddsworld characters. Keep up the good work and drawings over the summer. I am so proud of you.



Clara - for your angelic and beautiful singing voice. Joining choir has been the best opportunity for you to be able to show off your talent. You have such a beautiful voice and I can't wait to sing with you again after the summer holidays. Keep practicing and singing over the summer. **YOU ARE AMAZING!** We are very proud of you.

Omolara - for her amazing efforts with her handwriting and working on tasks independently. You have grown in confidence and are now completing one task a week independently. We are very proud of you, Omolara! Keep up the great work.

Chisom - for bringing out the inner child in everyone by playing practical jokes on us all. Seeing this side of you has been the best part of the year. It has been a pleasure to see and be a part of. Well done, Chisom. We are very proud of you.



Guy - for completing his Entry Level 3 in Maths. I know that Guy has found aspects of this certificate difficult, however, I hope that all of his hard work pays off. Your results will be emailed to you in August. We wish you all the best. Also, shout out for being so passionate about bullying and giving your fellow peers valuable advice on how to protect themselves. We are so proud of you.

Sean - for securing a place at his dream college on the course of his dreams. We are beyond proud of you and all the hard work you have put into your education over the past 8 years. We are going to miss you terribly but you are more than ready for college. Remember to stay cool and be the best version of yourself. Well done, Sean. You have finally graduated from The Holmewood school. Go and show the world what we see in you everyday.



This year has flown by so fast but it would not have been the same without my amazing team behind me.

Mr Murphy - Firstly, a massive congratulations on your new job position as a HLTA across the school. It was very well deserved. Thank you for all of your hard work, support and dedication this year. You have been cool, calm and collective which rubs off on the students. Met Class think you are amazing!

Ms Eva (aka pocket rocket) - for supporting the Metropolitan students with their first year at college and for guiding them through their transition period. You have been amazing! College would not have run as smoothly without you. Met Class think you are incredible!

Ms Khalil - for being so flexible and working with all students across the school and for running the most fantastic cooking sessions. Ms Khalil also designed this year's leavers' books, which were beautifully executed and a wonderful memory for our students to take home with them. Met Class think you are fantastic!

This year certainly has been an outstanding year and one which we have all enjoyed and will never forget. Thank you for all of your support this academic year.

As we move into the Summer holidays, I wish you all a lovely break. Stay safe, but most importantly; relax and enjoy some of the sunshine!

We look forward to seeing you all back in September!

Ms Perera

Metropolitan Class Teacher

DLR'S Day At Thorpe Park

Since after having me write her newsletter entry last week, Ms Gunning has clearly discovered the joy of outsourcing. Because of this, she's asked me to do a "review" of our class's trip to Thorpe Park last Monday on her behalf.

Unfortunately for her though, I had never visited anywhere like Thorpe park before and nor had I been on a roller coaster until this week either. As a result of this, I have no prior experience with which to compare our time at this amusement park to. Previously unbeknownst to me, it turned out that it is home to what are officially some of the most famous and exciting park attractions and rides in the world. To my surprise, many people I've spoken to since are extremely familiar with the rides and even their names along with those of other parks. Apparently then, there's a lot I've been missing out on.

Shortly after arriving at Thorpe, I was pressured into joining my tutors and fellow classmates on Storm Surge. Whilst it wasn't a roller coaster, I was very much reluctant to go on this water ride. Admittedly though, it wasn't nearly as terrifying as I feared it to be and we didn't actually get completely drenched by the splashes, sprinklers and geysers. It was more of a large twisty slide-like thing where the occupants of the small boats merely get mildly dizzy on their descent as opposed to some terrible watery widowmaker.

Afterwards, the entire class seemingly decided that their clothes were nowhere near soaked enough for their satisfaction. This was indicated by their decision to go on the Tidal Wave, which once held the title of "tallest water ride in Europe". I insisted on assigning myself the role of "designated survivor" and sat this one out. Given how soggy everyone else's trousers were after returning from Tidal Wave, I don't regret doing so either.



In fact, I chose not to join the class on any roller coasters or larger rides until later in the day, when Ms Gunning, Mr Ali and my peers said they wished to try going on Stealth again. Under the impression that Stealth lay more towards the tamer side of attractions, I begrudgingly agreed after much persuasion to join them. As we neared closer to it however, I realised just how insanely brutal it actually was upon seeing myself for the first time; after the first 90-degree turn, we'd be over 200 feet off the ground, we'd also be propelled to 80 MPH in just 1.9 seconds — considerably faster than an F1 car. This then was the second tallest roller coaster in the UK and the third-fastest accelerating on earth, and I had now been compelled to ride it. I, a complete newbie to roller coasters, would be strapped into that. As you can imagine then, I was trembling with “confidence”.

To add to the enormous sense of comfort and security I felt over this petrifying 4.8 G-force experience, I'd have to endure it without my glasses. This meant I was about to do one of the scariest things imaginable but while as blind as a bat. Thankfully, I would at least have Ms Gunning next to me; as we were harnessed in, she made it clear that it would all be over quite quickly. At this point I wasn't actually even sure if she was referring to the amount of time spent on Stealth or the remainder of our existence. I wrongly assumed the latter, but can be forgiven for doing so given what happened next.

Before we knew it, we were hurled practically vertically up towards Stealth's highest point. "Insanity" is the only word I can use to describe the entire sensation, but this is largely because after just a few seconds from the launch, I had passed out. Genuinely. I can't recall precisely when or where this happened or for how long, but according to Ms Gunning, she saw my head slump forwards and my eyes suddenly shut. My shoulder pain for the next day or so made me understand why you're meant to keep your head upright and back on the ride, but I began to regain consciousness moments later, and the whole thing was over as quickly as it had begun. Somewhat disorientated, I followed Ms Gunning back to my classmates who'd been on the rollercoaster just before us, and was met with a combination of concern and laughter upon them learning of me having

After having the opportunity to sit down for a couple of minutes and have a drink, I immediately convinced Ms Gunning that rather than queue up for Stealth again, we should instead get in line for the teacups ride. So, with me, her and a couple other sixth formers crammed into one spinning cup, we braced ourselves for what was a slightly milder experience than that of Stealth, but by far the most enjoyable of that day's. It was whilst swirling around in that teacup on that afternoon, that I realised just why people rave on about places like this. I had won a soft toy from the hook-a-duck stall that day, but I'd also be taking home the memories which would last a lifetime and that I can look back on whenever I wish to remind myself of just how enjoyable life can be whenever things get a little challenging.

Nicky Detain

Sixth Form Student

Inspiring Young People To Achieve Their Potential



The British Dyslexia Association are running a free webinar on 'Inspiring young people to achieve their potential'.

The session will focus on strategies to support studying and working from home with success stories to inspire young people.

It also aims to inspire parents and teachers of young people with dyslexia, including stories and anecdotes from dyslexic clients who have achieved significant levels of success and enjoyment in their professions and the kind of support available to young adults once they reach the workplace.

To register your place click [here](#).

The Homewood Gallery





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Thank you
to our fundraising superstars in

Circle Class

who took part in 5KMay and along with Metropolitan Class raised an amazing

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to help support all those with dyslexia and co-occurring differences.

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British Dyslexia Association

Designated Team For Child Protection And Safeguarding

If you are a student and have been harmed, or are at risk of harm, these are the people who can help. You can also talk to us if you are worried that another student is at risk of harm.

Lower School			
			
Ms D'Silva (Assistant Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Lemposzek (Head of Welfare & Behaviour, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Mr Gibbs (Humanities & PSHE Teacher, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)
Upper School			
			
Mr Lamb (Deputy Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Upper School, Level 3)	Ms Young (Head of School and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Young (Assistant Head and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)

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