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THE HOLMEWOOD

SCHOOL



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Newsletter

Friday 17 September 2021

Dear Families,

We've all had a great second week back at school and have enjoyed so many activities already. Our newest students continue to settle well and our existing ones are enjoying the challenges of a new academic year.

This week my team have been busy finalising dates for parent and family events this year and these will be going out to you very soon. Each term, I hold a Parent Partnership meeting myself and all parents and carers are welcome. I've been doing these remotely for the last year or so and this has actually resulted in more people being able to attend. I wish to continue this arrangement this year but for the very first one I would prefer you to join me in person. Having not seen many of you for so long it would be lovely to be back in a room together. It will also give newer families a chance to meet in person. So please join me if you can on Friday 1st October at 10.45. I will host the meeting in the hall at the Lower School on this occasion. All are welcome and I'll be sure to have some delicious cake.

Wishing you all a happy and restful weekend.

Executive Head Teacher

Dates For Your Diary

- **Wed 29th Sept** - Summer Fayre (Woodside Park)
- **Fri 22nd Oct** - Halloween cross site event
- **Mon 25th - Fri 29th Oct** - Half term holiday
- **Mon 1st Nov** - Autumn term (2nd half) starts
- **Wed 8th Dec** - Winter performance
- **Wed 15th Dec** - End of term
- **Tues 4th & Wed 5th Jan** - Inset days
- **Thurs 6th Jan** - Spring term (1st half) starts

Finding Fun

What did you do for fun when you were 10 years old?

This is a question posed by Gretchin Rubin in her book *The Happiness Project*, which I am currently reading. Apparently, remembering what you found fun at 10 goes a long way to helping you realise what you might find fun now.

This question was challenging for me to answer and I have come to realise that I was a pretty serious child. I did enjoy listening to music (Roxette and the Jesus Christ Superstar soundtrack), writing stories, reading and playing board games.

This week Mr Rose bought two of my favourite board games, Pandemic and Ticket to Ride, for the board game club. I enjoy these games because they require strategy and forward thinking.

I took them outside at lunch time to see if any of the students wanted to play. While I got more "nos" than "yesses", I managed to find four who were interested in playing Pandemic. Pandemic is a collaborative

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fun way to work on turn taking and social skills and I suppose you can say the topic is current.



Another thing Gretchin Rubin says is that what's fun for other people may not be fun for you-and vice versa. Giving up the fantasy that you, your children, your partner and friends should find certain things fun, really helps free up time for more enjoyable leisure activities.

It made me think about the diverse range of clubs we have on offer at Holmewood. The ideas for these clubs are based on activities that staff and students find fun. You might find Mr Lamb playing Chess, Ms Matthews running a beauty boutique, Ms Glassau-Dryer playing Dungeons and Dragons, Ms D'Silva running girls club, Mr Gonzalez and Ms Wallis-Jones fronting the band and choir, and many more. There really is something for everyone. If there isn't, someone will likely create it.

It's very motivating to spend time with young people when you get to do things that the whole group finds fun. Keep your eye out for the Jesus Christ Superstar club, coming soon.

Ms Young

Head of Upper School

Girls Club, Footprints & Residentials

We had a brilliant summer with various summer camps with our Lower School girls, Upper School girls and lots of students from across the key stages joining Footprints life camp.



I wanted to run a pilot girls camp in the summer with the aim of building confidence, making new friendships and generalising lifeskills. I think we managed to do all of this and more whilst having a lot of fun at our local cat cafe, Camden market and floating down the Regents Canal with ice cream. It was so lovely to see the girls making new friends and being so independent. Thank you to Ms Camilleri, Ms Johnson and Ms Foreman for volunteering in their summer holiday to help with the camp. It was so successful that I have just booked a girls club overnight stay to Brighton in October!



Footprints was also a great success and it was so lovely to be able to run camps again, particularly as we welcomed some new students; Layla M, Mariah and Natty. We had a great week visiting a dairy farm, having lazy picnic lunches in the forest, a cinema trip and travel training. Thank you to Mr Liston and Mr Rose for helping to run all our Footprints camps. Our next camp will be Easter 2021 and I am booking our summer residential for July 2022. The location is still to be confirmed but I have already booked Mrs D'Silva as chief cook!

Our residential programme is also re-starting and I have booked a lovely family run working farm in Suffolk called Mildenhall. It is off the beaten track down a quiet Suffolk farm drive and surrounded by ancient wildflower meadows and countryside. We are looking forward to walking, hugging trees, biking and dipping a foot into the 16th century. Do take a look if you are interested. <https://thehall-mildenhall.co.uk/>.

Best wishes,

Ms D'Silva

Assistant Head



class, and been settling back into the routine of school. We have already had two birthdays this academic year. Happy Birthday to both Ira and Arran!

In our PSHE lessons, we are learning how to make friendships and interact positively with our peers, which is a great start to developing positive relationships within the new class.

In Science we are discovering the functions of the circulatory system and in Maths we are working hard on our place values of numbers, including large numbers and decimal numbers. In English, we have started our topic of travel writing, after the students wrote a recount of their favourite holidays last week.

This week, District Class had their first OT cooking session with Piccadilly Class. They were split into two groups; one sweet and one savoury. Arran and Ira made sushi, and Loucas and Sonny made chocolate cupcakes. They were delicious!

Arran has had a particularly exciting time over the last two weeks during his travel training lessons with Ms D'Silva. He even got to ride at the front of the tube and talk to the train driver about a potential career in the TFL services!

This half term, we are looking forward to starting our Forest School sessions on a Friday afternoon, and also swimming during our PE lessons on Thursday morning.

Have a lovely weekend.

Ms Lutman

District Class Teacher



Northern class has had a fantastic start to the term. Our GCSE students are preparing for their exams with positive attitudes. They have made a dynamic start to their Art GCSE, while in Science and Maths students are experimenting with colour indicators and exam papers, respectively, for ensuring their readiness in the final exams.

As part of GCSE Art, Tayo compiled and took this amazing photograph.

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model. I think you will all agree that the composition of the photograph looks as though it has come out of a professional magazine!



Equally important to qualifications is the personal development of our students. This year's bespoke timetables for our class, allow students to take a break from exam preparation and access some time of discovering and developing their talents. Arlo has been doing Mentoring with our Behaviour Mentor, Ms Foreman, and has made a pizza from scratch.



Arlo's pizza has filled the kitchen with the beautiful aromas of dough, cheese, mushrooms and basil and has made everyone want a piece!

It has only been two weeks since the beginning of school and we already see some incredible work being done. We cannot wait to see what this year will bring. Well done Northern Class!

Ms Clack & Ms Fasouli

Northern Class

SaLT Therapy News

Dear Students and Families

We had a great start back to term with an inset on Social Thinking to follow up the work we began last term, which was led jointly by Ms Bridget Young and I.

In classes, we are focusing on the following concepts:

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- Thoughts and feelings
- Expected and unexpected behaviour



www.socialthinking.com has some amazing (many of them free!) resources if you wanted to follow up on anything we are teaching in school. There are webinars on many topics and I could listen to Michelle Garcia Winner talk all day about this stuff!

In the lower school, students have been talking about how to show that you are listening and part of the “group” (this might be the class, or a playground game outside, or a conversation with one other person) with your body. They have also been reflecting on how your body might be in the group but your brain might not. We are working on how to “roll your brain back into the group” when you notice it has rolled out. This has led to some lovely role plays!

In the upper school we have introduced discussions around our own and others’ thoughts and feelings and how to figure out another person’s “plan” (motive; what they want out of the conversation). Many of our older students are aware that they feel anxious talking to people but due to their anxiety they don’t give themselves the time they need to adjust what they are doing or saying (which could be nothing) in order to keep others thinking about them in the way they would like others to think about them.

During our inset, we had a lengthy discussion about the use of the word “appropriate”. In line with the Social Thinking framework, we are replacing the word “appropriate” with unexpected, wherever possible. This takes away the potential judgement made about a student’s behaviour, when it may be that they have misread a situation or just do not know how to act in a specific situation. Many of our students appear quite able but struggle with reading between the lines and boundaries can become very blurred. Students will be engaging in work this term to develop their awareness that behaving in unexpected ways may upset or worry other people (put them in the yellow zone) which will in turn lead to a negative interaction. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any of this work further.

And finally... yesterday we held our first proper Holmewood Choir practice! I look forward to feeding back after the event! We would love to have as many students (and staff) singing as possible



Singing is proven to have huge health benefits! Practices will be at Muswell Hill on Thursdays after school.

Ms Wallis-Jones

Senior Speech and Language Therapist

The Holmewood Gallery



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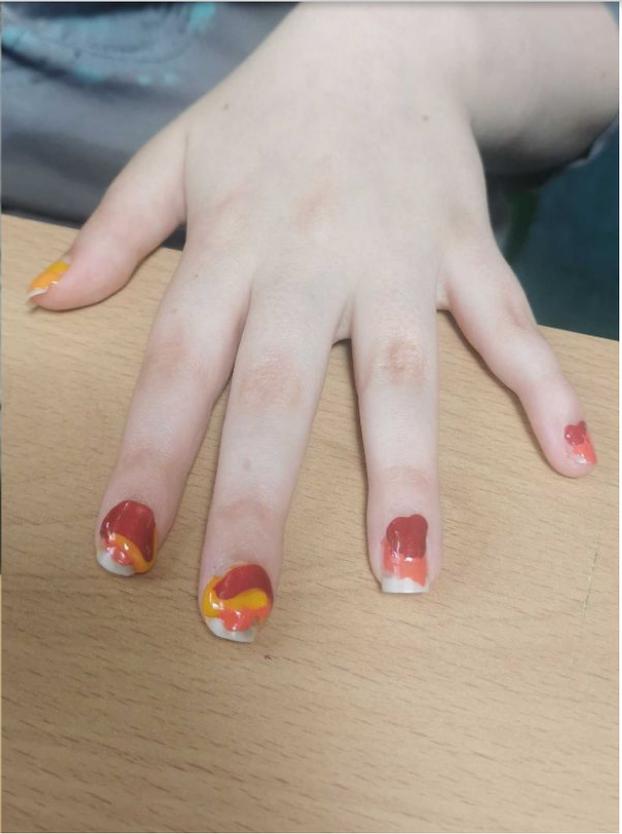
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Designated Team For Child Protection And

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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 Lempszek (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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