



Archbishop Holgate's School

Inclusion Corner

SUMMER 1 NEWSLETTER: May 2022

Welcome to our very first 'Inclusion Corner' newsletter - we hope you find this newsletter both an informative and uplifting read. Each half-term, our new Inclusion Corner newsletter will aim to: share important information and links to inform parents/carers on Special Educational Needs, shining a spotlight on a different area of need; celebrate our students' achievements, both in and out of school; publicise news and events that may be of interest to our SEND parents/carers; and finally, introduce parents/carers to each member of our inclusion team here at AHS.

Celebrating SEND at AHS



Mrs Cockle
English Teacher
(Year 7 Nurture)

Year 7 Nurture have been enjoying fortnightly library lessons where we have been completing book 'treasure hunts' and fact finding quests with the help of our lovely librarians. All students now know their way around the library confidently and enjoy racing each other for prizes. We have just finished a terms work on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest', the students did brilliantly and really enjoyed acting out scenes. We are looking forward to a new poetry topic beginning after Easter.



Ms Holmes
SENDCo and
RE Teacher

RE by nature can be seen as a really accessible subject for SEND learners who are able to explore and make sense of the world around them in relation to what matters most to them, their own morals and values. Through the RE curriculum at AHS students are able to engage in thought provoking, real-life ethical issues, alongside discussion of faith beliefs and practices of which we encourage students to reason with their own opinions and share these with peers as well as verbally and in written work. As a Faith School we have worked hard to ensure RE is taught to the highest standard and take great pride in our RE curriculum and resources. All students access the RE GCSE curriculum with those on the Applied Learning pathway being able to engage in a half GCSE. We wish the very best of luck to our Year 13 and Year 11 students whose exams are just around the corner.



SEND spotlight



Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)

What is autism?

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects how people communicate and interact with the world. One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK.

Autistic people may act in a different way to other people. Autistic people may:

- find it hard to communicate and interact with other people
- find it hard to understand how other people think or feel
- find things like bright lights or loud noises overwhelming, stressful or uncomfortable
- get anxious or upset about unfamiliar situations and social events
- take longer to understand information
- do or think the same things over and over

These differences that people with ASC may experience can make everyday life overwhelming. Often people can feel worried and stressed by everyday activities such as going to school, meeting people and trying new things.

Difficulties with social communication and interaction and the differences in their interests, strengths and talents can make them feel left out and misunderstood by other people, which can lead to problems with low mood and low self-esteem.

Things that can help you and your family

Do

- ✓ ask friends and family if they can help with day-to-day things or just be there to talk to
- ✓ get advice from other parents of autistic children or autistic adults - [find out where to get support](#)
- ✓ listen to other parents' stories - the charity healthtalk.org has [stories of parents of autistic children](#), or you can search online for blogs, videos and books
- ✓ ask your local council for a [carer's assessment](#) - you might be able to get extra support and financial benefits
- ✓ think about doing a course for parents of autistic children - such as the [EarlyBird course](#) from the National Autistic Society



Autism awareness at AHS



Meg Overton
Our Autism
Champion

Within my role as a School Assistant, I work as the Autism Champion of the school by helping identify and implement good practice in supporting students with Autism. I attend termly meetings hosted by the City of York Council Specialist Teaching Team which bring together Autism Champions from across York secondary schools to discuss and share knowledge, information and resources to effectively support students with Autism. I work closely with our SENDCo in providing tailored support for individuals with Autism and host 1:1 and group mentoring sessions. These mentoring sessions offer an opportunity to build relationships between staff, students and peers through a range of activities, encouraging positive wellbeing within and outside of school.

At AHS we work hard to ensure that all students with SEND needs are given the adequate time, resources and expertise to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

Here is just a flavour of some of the ways we support staff in their teaching practice and autistic students within school:

- whole staff training on teaching strategies for supporting autistic students
- updates on individual students progress in our daily staff bulletin with suggestions on how to support these students further
- a comprehensive SEND register for staff with a detailed overview of need, provision and strategies
- updates on ClassCharts and overview of provision for each student
- raising awareness of autism as part of Year Group Acts of Collective Worship

Useful links

The National Autistic Society has a great website with lots of information www.autism.org.uk
They have useful information sheets, such as: Using Visual Supports: www.autism.org.uk/about/strategies/visual-supports.aspx

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/education>

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/issue/autistic-spectrum-condition/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism/what-is-autism/>



University focus

Each half term we will focus on a particular university from around the UK whose inclusive provision will really help our SEND students go on to higher education.

University is an exciting yet daunting prospect for all our students, let alone those students who have SEND. Despite the additional difficulty they face, of the nearly 2.8 million students who went to university in 2021/22, 15% identified as having SEND and this number is increasing year on year. Moving away from home, studying independently, making new friendships and learning new academic material takes resilience and perseverance. If university is the right path for your SEND child it's imperative that they're supported through the transition period and throughout their course for them to go on to achieve their potential. Fortunately, the UK's universities are increasingly supportive of SEND and many have dedicated departments to provide individually tailored support.





The University of Sheffield's support for disabled students

The University of Sheffield has a dedicated Disability and Dyslexia Support Service (DDSS) which helps students before they begin university life, ensures their studies run as smoothly as possible and looks after them during exam periods. They can provide a whole host of additional support including:

- Taxis to and from lectures/disability parking permits if needed
- Copies of lecture notes and handouts ahead of time so students can pre-read the material
- Support workers and personal assistants for practical subjects and to help student access lessons and facilities
- Sign interpreters
- Note takers for lectures
- Loans of computers and other specialist equipment
- Adaptations to exam arrangements
- Mobility training for students who are blind or partially sighted to help them navigate around campus
- 1:1 orientation support



The University Of Sheffield.

In addition to the extra provision, each department has a disability liaison officer who ensures all adjustments are being adhered to and everything runs smoothly. There is also the opportunity to be put in contact with an existing student at the university with disabilities who can act as a mentor during the transition periods.

For more information about the DDSS at The University of Sheffield, visit their website www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/disability





SEND news and events

2022 Opportunities Fair at Askham Bryan College

This year's event will run just like in 2019 where young people are brought along by either school or a family member, there will be 3 workshops available for each young person to choose from and a vast range of providers in the main hall, all there to talk about what they offer. This year's event will be held on 16th May. Arrival between 9:30 and 10am, and the day will end at 2:30pm. The event is aimed at any young person Year 9 or above with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities who wishes to explore their post 16 and post 19 options. More information here: <https://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Local%20Offer/sendlocaloffer>

Did you know about the free MAX discount card?

If you are a parent or carer of children aged 0-19 (or up to 25 years if the child/young person has a disability or additional need), and you live in York, did you know you can apply for a free MAX discount card? By confirming your child's disability or additional need you will automatically receive the Max Card and be added to the City of York Council's disabled register. You will receive regular newsletters and information relating to disability and additional needs in York. The Max Card scheme gives children, their carers and other family members free or discounted access to some of the most exciting attractions across the UK. The scheme is designed to help parents and carers of disabled children and looked after children save money on great days out at castles, zoos, museums and more. To join the FIS Newsletter and the Max Card Scheme, [apply online to receive the FIS Newsletter](#) or contact the York Family Information Service on 01904 554444.



York Parent/Carer Workshop/Q&A Sessions

Skills and SLEATS Team - 25 May 2022, 12.00 - 1.30pm

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/skills-team-and-sleats-team-workshopqa-session-tickets

SENDIASS - 9 June 2022, 1.00 - 2.30pm

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sendiaass-parent-carer-workshopqa-session-tickets

Education Psychology - 4 July 2022, 9.30 - 11.00am

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yorks-educational-psychology-service-parent-workshopqa-session-tickets

Healthy Child Service - 3 November 2022, 9.30 - 11.00am

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/yorks-healthy-child-service-workshopqa-session-tickets

If you have any questions about these sessions, please email jointpartnership@york.gov.uk