Inclusion Corner

Welcome to our 'Inclusion Corner' newsletter feature - we hope you find this newsletter both an informative and uplifting read. For those of you with students new to AHS, a quick overview is below:
Each half-term, our 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.

AHS JOURNEY

Supporting our students

Miss Woolerton
Assistant Head - Inclusion

Here we are again at the start of a brand new school year! We are really excited for all of the excellent opportunities our students will receive this year.

Here in the SEND/Inclusion team, we were hugely inspired this summer by the Paralympics. If you didn't get a chance to watch the closing ceremony, here is a small snippet of the closing speech which we feel absolutely crystallises why we do what we do as a school and as a community:

International Paralympic Committee (IPC) President Andrew Parsons said:
"We all have a collective responsibility to use the momentum of the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games to make the world around us more inclusive.
What a Paralympic legacy this would be, not just for these athletes, but the world's 1.3 billion persons with disabilities that they represent.
Beyond 12 days of sport, we must break down the barriers that exist in society. We must enable and empower persons with disabilities to excel outside of the field of play, in education, in employment, in entertainment, in government, in civil society – everywhere!
Diversity and difference should not divide us.
Diversity and difference should unite us, drive change and make this planet better for everyone."

What a really inspirational and important message for us all.

PARIS 2024

#05

Inclusion Corner

Important Staffing Updates

We are really excited this year to welcome many new faces to our team.

First of all, we would like to extend a huge warm welcome to our new headteacher, Mrs Pond.
Mrs Pond has been teaching for over 20 years in Doncaster, and has been a head there for the last 5 years. Mrs Pond welcomed all children back to school this year with a message about being the best we can be; aiming high and embodying the school's Christian Values. We hope you will all get a chance to meet Mrs Pond at some point this year.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Bannister. Mrs Bannister is our new Inclusion Lead, and is responsible for overseeing our AHS Horizons provision: a bespoke pathway aimed at students who are struggling to access full-time mainstream education. Mrs Bannister has been a primary school teacher for over 23 years across Leeds and York. Most recently, Mrs Bannister was SENDCo at Poppleton Road Primary School , one of our MAT primary schools.

Mrs Bannister loves spending time with her three grown up children; her little cats; drinking tea; wild swimming; baking and visiting new places. Fun fact: Mrs Bannister once lived in a treehouse in a rainforest and learned to play the didgeridoo there!

Joining Mrs Bannister in Horizons is Mrs Turner, our wonderful and very experienced HLTA; Mrs Papprill, Mrs Bale and Mrs Breare- our Maths dream team; Mr Stevens- a true Archies Legend and English teacher, and finally, the wonderful Ms Burns, our trained ELSA. We are really excited to be able to offer this bespoke provision for our most in need children.

Celebrating Success!

One of our Y10/11 EHCP students, Caspar has been working through the AQA Unit Award Scheme since January to gain pre-entry level and entry level qualifications in English, Maths and ICT. Caspar has really enjoyed working on the units with his teachers and school assistants, and on Wednesday 19th June was presented with his certificates by one of our Assistant Headteachers, Mr Williams. Lots of staff and other students came over to see what Caspar had done and he was proud to show his certificates off in the library. This is a fantastic achievement and is a brilliant demonstration of our EHCP students striving for success.
Caspar is going to continue to work on the Unit Award Scheme this half term and has even started work on some extra units in Travel and Tourism - he's still working hard

We're looking forward to the next presentation (and the next chocolate cake) already.

Well done , Caspar!

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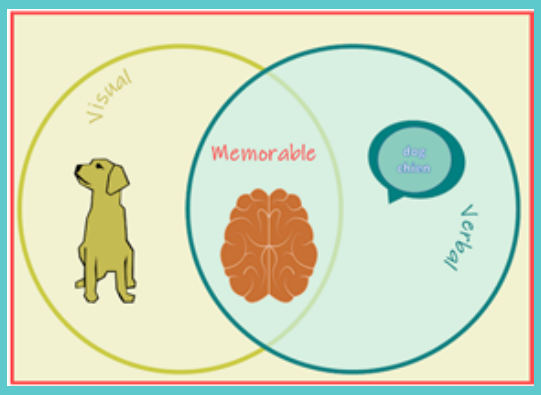
This year, we are continuing to train and support our staff to utilise Adaptive Teaching strategies in the classroom. We all know that excellent practice for SEND students is excellent practice for all students. This has been a fantastic CPD offer extended to all teaching staff, and we are seeing the positive impact it is having in classrooms and in terms of student learning and wellbeing.



The three core strategies we will be encouraging all teaching staff to use this year are:

- **Dual Coding:** The process of providing students with verbal and visual materials at the same time
- **I do, We do, You do:** It is a teaching approach that begins with the teacher modelling a new skill (I do); this is followed by scaffolding, collaboration and guided practice (we do), and then independent practice (you do).
- **Dyslexia friendly resourcing:** decluttered PowerPoints; sensible text colours; a large, dyslexia friendly font and adequate text spacing.

All authorities should publish their 'SEND Local Offer' - York's can be found on the below link.
The website had an upgrade last year and there are some excellent links, information and advice on here:
https://www.yorksend.org

The Short Breaks (100 hours) is changing

It will now be called Early Help Short Break Grant which will reflect the way the short breaks will now support with new referrals.

Any child who is referred into short breaks will be assessed on their individual need and any decisions will be made on an annual basis. Referrals will need to be made each year.

Referrals will be open twice a year and decisions made within those timescales.

You can find out more information about, and apply for, Short Breaks support on the SEND Local Offer:
https://www.yorksend.org/homepage/21/short-breaks

Take A Break

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AHS SEND *Coffee Morning*

We are delighted to invite our SEND parents to our SEND coffee mornings. This is for both parents/carers and students, and will be held in our **Library and Resource Centre from 9.30am-12pm.**

During the morning, you will get a chance to:

- Meet with many of the staff who are part of our inclusion and intervention team.
- Chat with other parents of SEND students.
- Access important resources about our SEND offer at AHS and find out how you can support students outside of school too.
- Enjoy refreshments.
- Ask any questions you might have about SEND at AHS.

We would love to see as many of you there as possible!
Peer support is so important for parents and carers of young people with SEND needs, it's a great way to gain and offer support in the community.

Coffee Morning dates for 2024-25:

Saturday 5th October 2024
Saturday 15th March 2025
Saturday 21st June 2025

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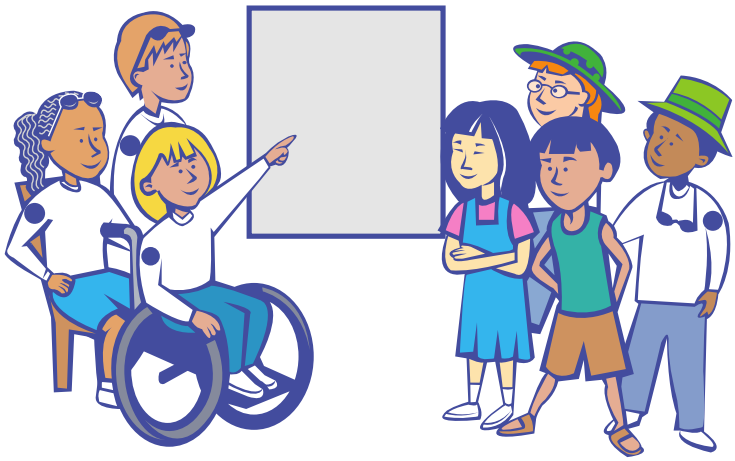
Assembly: Year 8 AAC Use

In the Summer term, we were really grateful to have Gregor and Jack from AT Therapy come and deliver an assembly for Year 8 on AAC use: Augmentative and Alternative Communication use. Gregor and Jack both attended mainstream primary and secondary schools, and thrived at each having both gone on to further education and now employment. They came to deliver to Year 8 some top tips about how to communicate with an AAC user, and to remind and inspire us not to 'judge a book by its cover'.

Gregor's top tips for communicating and working with an AAC user:

1. Please listen to me.
2. Please try to give me time to finish my sentence, I know this can take time, I wish it could be quicker.
3. Please don't try to finish my sentence for me.
4. Please don't touch my screen without permission.
5. I want to participate in class, please let me answer questions.
6. Don't treat me like a baby. I understand as much as the rest of the class. I am not stupid.
7. If you seen me wanting to answer a question, please give me a chance.
8. Make me laugh, I have a good sense of humour, but only if your jokes are funny!



Jack's Top Tips:

1. Be friendly
2. Be patient
3. Give them time
4. Include
5. Talk
6. Support

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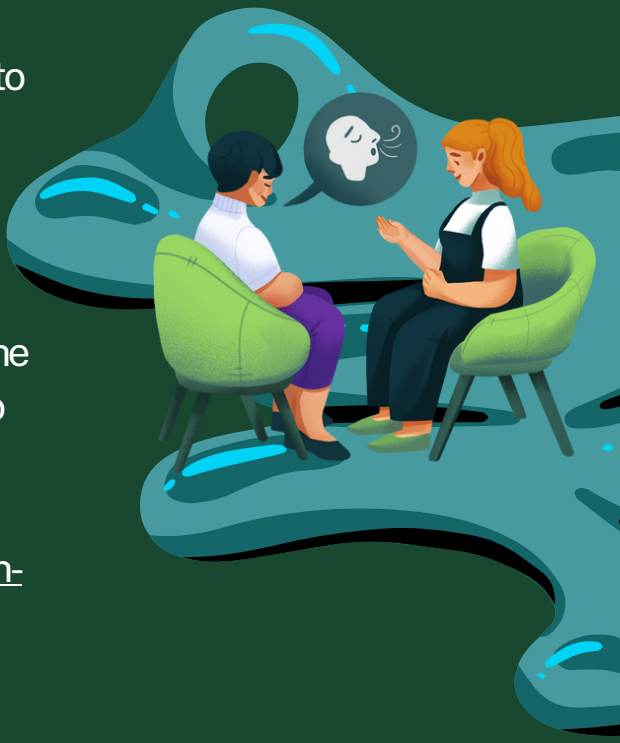
YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH DAY

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH #CONTROLYOURSCROLL

Youth Mental Health Day encourages understanding and discussion of mental health in young people, enabling them to live happy and healthy lives all year round.



Mental Health Support in York

YorChoice offers drop in support for 14-21 year olds in York. The drop in is a place where parents and young people can go to find the right support for their mental health in York. More information can be found on their website here: https://www.yormind.org.uk/mental-health-services/children-emotional-support-and-mental-health-support-2/

YorChoice have an Instagram account which offers tips and tricks to help with mental health @chitchatpodcast and a video explaining the service can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvGooSw2hBU

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Support in York

YorChoice Parents Drop In

26th September 2024 5:30-7pm
at York Mind Highcliffe House

This is a chance for parents to understand what the service is and have a chat about how best to support their child. Tickets are available through the Eventbrite website.

Drop In Sessions for Young People

Mondays 4-7pm at Tang Hall Explore Library
Thursdays 4-7pm
at York Mind Highcliffe House

At the sessions, there will be staff to chat to, refreshments available and someone to play games and do crafts with. Staff will also chat about the support available for mental health in York.

Autism Support for Parents from the Specialist Teaching Team for Autism

Wednesdays Autumn 2024

Fortnightly Topic Talks Wednesdays in Autumn Term 2024:

- **Early Years** 18.9.24 - 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person
- **Masking** 2.10.24 - 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person
- **5-Point Scale** 16.10.24 - 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person
- **Autism and Adolescence** 6.11.24 - 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person
- **Comic Strip Conversations** 20.11.24-10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person
- **Coping with Christmas** 4.12.24- 10-11a.m. online & 1.30-2.30 p.m. in person

Fortnightly Phone line (mornings) and drop-in (afternoons) Autumn 2024:

- Wednesday **11th September** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **25th September** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **9th October** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **23rd October** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **13th November** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **27th November** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.
- Wednesday **11th December** 9 a.m. -12 noon & 1.30 - 2.30 p.m.

Parent Group: Topic Talks virtual (a.m.) and repeated in person (p.m.)

Topic Talks led by the Specialist Teaching Team for Autism, including time for questions and peer support.

Virtual: 10-11 a.m. On Microsoft Teams. Due to confidentiality issues, we will be unable to discuss named children during this time.

In Person: 1.30-2.30 p.m. at **The YIKS All About Autism Hub, Clifton Children's Centre, (In front of Clifton Green School), YO30 6BF.**

Parent/Carer Phone Line and Drop-in

The Specialist Teaching Team Autism are offering parents/carers the opportunity to talk to a member of the team regarding general issues and concerns about children/young people with autism.

Phone line support: 9-12 noon 20 minutes is allocated per phone call.

In person drop-in support. 1.30-2.30 p.m. at **The YIKS All About Autism Hub, Clifton Children's Centre, (In front of Clifton Green School), YO30 6BF**

To **book a 20 minute phone line call** or to book your **virtual place** on a Microsoft Teams **Topic Talk** session, please email your name stating which Topic Talks you would like to book to: parentcarerautismsupport@york.gov.uk For phone support, we require your name and a contact telephone number for us to call you. We will send you a time slot for your 20 minute call. If we receive a high volume of requests we may need to allocate spaces on the session on a first come, first served basis. **This is an admin email address and we are unable to forward or respond to queries via this email. Bookings close the Thursday before the session. For in person drop-in sessions,** you do not need to book and you are welcome to simply arrive on the day. Please be aware, sessions may be busy and you may need to wait to speak to a member of the team.