

Our Mission

We are an ambitious and inclusive Church of England School, dedicated to ensuring all students live life to the full.

We have had a busy term again and have enjoyed welcoming our new Year 7 students to our school. We have pupil passport plans in place for all our Year 7s with SEND and have met many parents to share these either at the Settling-In Evening or separately. If you are concerned about the provision we are making for your child, please do let us know so we can address it.

The focus of this year's staff training in Investment Week has been on how we can support students with SEND. Staff have had additional training on how to adapt their teaching for individual student needs and this will be the focus of our teacher development training throughout this half term.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those who attended our Parent Forum last year.

The aims of our parent forum are:

- To improve communication and collaboration between the school and parents.
- To introduce parents to one another as parenting a child with additional needs can be isolating and it may help to share experiences with one another.
- To explore areas that the school could better address to meet the needs of parents and families.
- To offer additional advice and guidance about common areas of interest.

Any parent or carer is welcome to attend.

Our next Parent Forum will be held from 2.30-4pm on Thursday 7th December.

The focus for our next forum will be literacy support and we hope to share and discuss with you how we support students with additional needs relating to reading and writing.

CHAT Room

This half term we are excited to launch our Communication Hub Assistant Team (CHAT) Room.

This room is dedicated to supporting students with communication and interaction needs such as autism.

The room is run by Mrs Kim Tape, who is trained and experienced in supporting students with these needs.

It will be used to deliver interventions relating to language and social skills and for mentoring. It can also be used as a quiet workspace and the Sensory Room will also be accessed here.



Language and Literacy Testing

This term we are testing all Year 7 students' reading and language skills so we can offer appropriate interventions where needed.

One Minute Guides

Devon's Communication and Interaction Team have produced a range of 'One Minute Guides' relating to a range of topics such as: Autism in girls, autism and bullying, anxiety and dysregulation, emotional logic, PDA, DLD, social interactions and friendships, and many others.

Do take a look at them at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/send/areas-of-need/communication-and-interaction/one-minute-guides/>



Happy Maps

Happy Map has information for parents and young people on a wide range of issues and needs. It covers advice on topics such as 'parenting teenagers: what's normal', low mood and depression, anxiety, sleep, ADHD, self-harm, tics and Tourettes, eating disorders, amongst many others. Happy Maps can be found at: <https://www.happymaps.co.uk/>

The Learning Support Room

We have now been running our Learning Support Room (LSR) for a term.

This room is led by the Head of Learning Support, Mrs Maria Eyre, who leads the Learning Support Team.

We have created this room as a quiet and supportive space which students can use to access time out, mentoring and other interventions. It allows us to focus support on students who are gradually returning to education after time off and on students who are struggling to access classroom learning for medical reasons.



Additional help:



You can always access free, impartial and confidential help about SEND issues through DIAS.

<https://devonias.org.uk/> tel:441392383080 devonias@devon.gov.uk



Early Help is the extra support your family can get if you need it. It may be that you want to prevent a problem, or change things for your family before the problem becomes more serious.

It is not a specific service or team, it's an approach that brings together people from a range of services and teams who will work together with your whole family to help improve the situation for everyone.

It can offer support to families from pre-birth to adolescents with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour. If you would like to know more then please email

Tracey.Wadeley@stlukescofe.school

For Wellbeing support and also to find our One Minute Guides to SEND and also Early Help, please visit our website page

<https://stlukescofe.school/send/>