

### Our Mission

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

As ever, it has been a busy term for SEND support across the school! Here's a quick snapshot...

Teachers have been receiving ongoing training, as usual. This term we have especially focussed on 'adaptive teaching' as part of teacher coaching so that we know all teachers are well-equipped to support students' needs within lessons. We have also done additional training on language needs. All of the teaching assistants and the Inclusion support team have completed 'Mind Your Words' which is training recommended by Speech and Language Therapy and the Communication and Interaction Team to help ensure we meet students' language needs, continue to reduce behaviour incidents and help set students on the best path for their futures.

Continuing our focus on language needs, we screened all the Year 7s just before Christmas to look for any additional language needs that may have previously been missed. We were then able to offer those that need it a language intervention. This successfully helped over 90% of those highlighted to make progress.

### Parent Forum

Thank you to those who attended either of the two Parent Forums offered this term. On each occasion, both an afternoon and an evening session was offered.

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.

In the most recent forum we looked at Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Suggestions for future topics are welcomed. It has seemed to be a helpful way for families to share experiences and come together in a supportive way.

We will share dates for next term shortly. We are likely to showcase our literacy support work then.

### Blue Boy Award



Congratulations to Amelia Kwiecinska, winner of the Blue Boy Award 2022. This celebrated her work raising awareness of Spinal Muscular Atrophy and also fundraising. She is a truly inspirational student who is passionate about this cause.

The Blue Boy Award is part of the centuries old St John's Hospital Foundation charitable work.

Students receive the award for "non-academic achievement and to be made to a student who has quietly achieved something unexpected and exceptional, possibly outside the school, as a result of their own character and effort."

## You said... We did....

At the Parent Forum in January, parents and carers made some observations and requests. Here is a quick recap of what was raised and what we did as a result:

### What does 'extra help' mean? What does the school offer in terms of additional support?

- Action – the SEND Report and SEND area of the website were signposted. Ways of exploring additional support available are being explored by the school e.g. One Minute Guides. Suggestions for topics for these would be welcomed. Some have been added the website with more One Minute Guides to come...

### More regular and specific information

- Some parents were not clear how you would know if a child was on the school's SEND register or of the implications of this. This was briefly discussed. Letters are sent home when students are added or removed from the SEND register.
- Not all parents have seen the Pupil Profile Plan relating to their child. Action – These should be shared at Parents Evenings and other school meetings e.g. SEND review meetings. There is a rolling programme to ensure Plans are shared and discussed regularly which we are working through. The school is already also implementing a plan to inform parents when their child starts a specific intervention and its aims, duration, ways of supporting at home which is relatively new post-covid.
- It would be helpful if after a mentoring session a student was given a short summary of what was covered in that session. This should now be happening. Students are given a brief summary which they can choose to share at home.
- It can be hard to get a reply when calling reception at times. The main point of contact should be the tutor and then Head of Year but for SEND specific issues, then the SENCo or Head of Learning. They can be emailed via [tamar.busby@stlukescofe.school](mailto:tamar.busby@stlukescofe.school) and [maria.eyre@stlukescofe.school](mailto:maria.eyre@stlukescofe.school).
- We discussed the training that staff receive and also how students are taught about respect and inclusion e.g. through school values, Mindful Moments, assemblies, Life to the Full and tutor reading. Action – the school could share when these topics are being covered and also parents would be willing to talk to staff directly to bring training to life if it were helpful. This requires further action but has been noted.
- Miss Busby also met with some people individually as a result of the Forum and acted on requests from those meetings.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/>