

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Welcome to the first issue of this term's and this year's Head's Weekly Newsletter.

Firstly, I wish you a very happy New Year 2016 - may it bring you good health, lots of love and endless happiness, as well as fulfilment in your personal, family and professional life.

We started the week as we mean to go on: with joy of targeted and, in the case of this week, intensive learning.

All staff - whether our ACE Team (working directly with the students) or the SBS Team (School Business Support colleagues) got together on Monday for some inspiring leadership development. We welcomed the *Art of Brilliance* speaker, Peter Anderton, who reminded us that happiness is a choice and that we are all masters of our destiny. A truly enjoyable and empowering way to start the year!

On Tuesday, a very comprehensive programme of training included more technical aspects of professional development, including focus on the key aspects of our School Development Plan. We learnt about more effective Maths' delivery, we learnt more about our students for whom English is an additional language (EAL) and we upskilled staff in promoting our students' independent learning. We also spent some time on mastering our new assessment monitoring tool, Classroom Monitor, and hope that we will see its clear benefits in the coming months.

Additionally, we embarked on a very exciting journey of discovery through a new, ground-breaking programme of intervention called Move4Words, making us the first special school in the country to opt in for this well-researched method of enhancing students' reading skills. You can find out more about the programme on the provider's website and I will keep you posted with the progress as we start embedding it into our school.

<http://www.move4words.org.uk>

Welcoming students back to school on Wednesday was wonderful and we look forward to our first full week with them next week. Have a very good weekend.

Kind regards

Ania Hildrey  
Headteacher

## **Expansion Project**

It gives me great pleasure to let you know that, after several months of building works, our school expansion project is nearing completion.

I don't want to jinx it by being my usual optimistic self, but, we have received confirmation that, all being well, we will be able to move into the building at the start of Term 4!

I had a chance to visit the site yesterday and the transformation is breath-taking: we have lovely spacious new classrooms, small group rooms and specialist spaces for learning and therapeutic interventions. Our new Café will provide a better, more accessible space with the added bonus of an outdoor terrace, the construction of which is now complete. Some space for the staff room and a few small office and meeting spaces will also be created to accommodate our growing and diverse workforce.

The vision for the future is to allow our most senior students and those with complex communication and interaction needs to be based there, although this transition will be slow and begin with only some groups of students during this academic year.

Once the final timetable of the move to the new building is agreed with the Operational Leadership Team next Friday, we will share it with you and with the students, some of whom will need extra support in making the transition.

All in all - very exciting times ahead and a massively symbolic project for me, as the Headteacher: in my first year I received the keys to that brand new building and now, in my last year, I will do so again. This time, I have full confidence that this amazing new resource will benefit hundreds of students in the many years to come.

## **Cold weather**

With cold weather looming, this is a gentle reminder to all parents to ensure that students arrive at school ready for outdoor pursuits—suitable clothing and footwear are a must!

Thank you

## Welcome and farewell!

### **We are delighted to welcome new members to our team this term:**

Jenni Hipgrave (previously Hamman)  
Yanneth Boland  
Rocio Pisoni  
Arthur Gashumba  
Clare Grosart—new teacher for KS5 Ahlberg class

Katie Gear, previously a teacher in Ahlberg class, will focus on English as an Additional Language (EAL) across the whole school.

### **We say goodbye and thank you to the following members of staff for their service to the school:**

Nicky Clarke  
Katie Axford  
Anne-Marie Hayward  
Emma Downey  
Jade Linton

## KS4 Trip to Boyne Grove

Last term, students from KS4 Handler class visited the elderly at Boyne Grove who suffer with Dementia. They behaved impeccably and engaged with the elderly people, giving them gifts donated by staff and students in KS4. We are hoping to make further links with the staff at Boyne Grove, who were very interested in welcoming more of our students.



## **Term Dates 2015-2016**

Term 1 starts on 3.9.15  
Term 1 ends on 23.10.15  
Term 2 starts on 2.11.15  
Term 2 ends on 18.12.15 @1:30  
Term 3 starts on 6.1.16  
**Term 3 ends on 12.2.16**  
Term 4 starts on 22.2.16  
Term 4 ends on 24.3.16 @1:30  
Term 5 starts on 11.4.16  
Term 5 ends on 27.5.16  
Term 6 starts on 6.6.16  
Term 6 ends on 21.7.16 @1:30

### Please note:

**Year 11 leavers finish on Friday, 24 June 2016**

**All other leavers, including school transfers and KS5/Post 16 students finish on Wednesday, 6 July 2016**

## **Attendance at school**

Attendance at school is essential for students to progress and achieve. Ensuring that students attend school is the legal responsibility of their parents or guardians.

The school is obliged to promote 100% attendance of its students and report any concerns regarding poor attendance to the Local Authority.

As the Headteacher of Manor Green School, I have no legal right to authorise term-time absence, apart from absences related to exceptional circumstances.

Please note that holidays do not fall into this category, however compelling the reasons for booking them in term time...

## **Stars/Students of the Term (Term 2)**

### **Primary Department's Stars**

Harry Woledge-Clarke, Archie Phillips, Olivier Wrobel, Oliver Holmes, Sara Kayani, Charlie Smith, Charleigh Hamblin, Jasmine Gibson, Justin Butler

### **Secondary Department's Students**

Sana Ali, Eli Paull, Dalia Allagany, Robert Malone-Spindlow, Dominic Ineson, Soroush Bagheri, Lee Sayward, Tristan Miles, Karandip Sidhu, Aisha Malik, Asharib Ahmad, Lewis Goodchild, Joanne Pantridge, Kyle Skinner

### **Therapeutic Learning Support's**

Liam Lee, Joseph Melia, Jonah Mair

## **KEY DIARY DATES: Term 3**

Sat 9 January 2016	10:15	31st Annual Swimathon at Magnet Leisure Centre
Mon 11 January 2016	12:00-13:30	MGS Friends' Association in Parents' Room
Fri 15 January 2016	09:30-10:00	KS5 Ahlberg Class Assembly
Tue 19 January 2016	09:30	M&m Theatrical Productions' Pantomime
Wed 20 January 2016	09:15-10:00	School Council Meeting
Thu 21 January 2016	All day	School Improvement Partner Visit
	13:00	Secondary Prospective Parents' Visit
Fri 22 January 2016	09:30-10:00	AP Briggs Class Assembly
Thu 28 January 2016	10:00	Primary Prospective Parents' Visit
Fri 29 January 2016	All day	Friends of Manor Green School Fundraising Day
	14:00-15:00	Talent Show Auditions
Mon 1 February 2016	All day	Alternative Provision Moderation Day
	12:00-13:00	MGS Friends' Association in Parents' Room
Tue 2 February 2016	All day	Primary Moderation Day
Fri 3 February 2016	All day	Secondary Moderation Day
Fri 5 February 2016	All day	Governors into School Day
	09:30-10:00	KS3 Hughes Class Assembly
	13:30-15:00	Secondary Talent Show
Fri 12 February 2016	09:30-10:00	KS4 Collins Class Assembly
	09:30-11:00	'Stay & Play' for Early Years, Rosen and Browne <i>followed by</i>
	11:00-12:00	Coffee in the Parents' Room
	15:15	End of Term
15—19 February 2016		<b>FEBRUARY HOLIDAY</b>