MANOR GREEN SCHOOL

Excellence for All

Head's Weekly Newsletter

Issue 28
6 May 2016

Dear Parents, Carers and Colleagues

Welcome to today's issue of the Head's Weekly Newsletter.

This has been a short week and yet, one filled with exciting events.

Our senior students are all ready for their external exams, which started this week, and I wish every single one of them all the very best of luck!

On that same note, I cannot thank enough the staff involved in teaching, supporting and guiding them - a brilliant academic, pastoral and administrative team effort.

The last bit - the administration - often goes unnoticed, acting as the school's "underdog"!

It is only when you observe that operation which runs with military precision and greatest attention to detail, that you begin to fully appreciate it.

The result? A predictable and reliable system with the students and staff in the right places, at the right times, with the right documentation and additional support for each of the students.

Add to that a glowing report from each of the inspecting awarding bodies and you have a picture of the school's administrative integrity.

Long may it continue and long may the students benefit from it!

For now - my fingers are all white from the "good luck" crossing :-)

I wish you all a very good weekend.

Kind regards

Ania Hildrey
Headteacher

The invisible force behind a Headteacher ...

It is very rare that I publicly talk about or thank my PA, Sharon Glover. Today, inspired by the praise for the often praise-neglected SBS Department, the time has come to make a massive deal of the great work she does.

Sharon joined our school in April 2011 as my Personal Assistant (PA) - at a time this was a new role, created by me to assist not only with the then paper diary management and a range of diverse administrative support tasks, but also to act as a trusted and confidential assistant for all things "human", which arise in a Headteacher's job on a daily basis.

Over the years, Sharon's role evolved from that very Headteacher-centred position to encompass an even wider range of tasks. The role grew beyond that of a PA role, incorporating being a Clerk to our Strategic Leadership Team, the Operational Leadership Team, the Governing Body, as well as being our Exams' Officer. The willingness to "mop up" any administrative tasks arising, including Reception cover, also features somewhere in the Job Description!

Needless to say, Sharon is the one who has seen me grin, fear, pull my hair out, sob and quietly reflect.....

We often hear the expression: "She is my rock". This sums up my feelings, too, although a rock is too hard; added to my own personal rock is a heart of gold, empathy beyond any I have ever known before and a level of resilience I can only aspire to achieve one day....

Sharon - thank you for being the silent and hardly ever visible part of the school's enormous success. Most of all, thank you for being you!

Save the Day: Monday 9 May 2016

Parents, carers and friends are invited to the opening of our new cardio wall at 11:00am, Monday, 9 May 2016

The wall will be opened by

TOM GUEST

a rugby union player for London Irish

Dr Barrie Mair from the Wooden Spoon Charity will kindly present their cheque

Also attending will be:
The Mayor, Councillor Eileen Quick and members of the Wooden Spoon Charity

We do hope you can join us

ROCKET SCIENCE

Our seeds are growing!

ASDAN

Thank you to @ManorGreenSEN who have been an ASDAN registered centre for 25+ years #ASDAN25 asdan.org.uk/25years

LANGUAGE OF THE MONTH

Our language focus this month is on **Afrikaans**

Classes will learn how to say 'good morning' and 'thank you'

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 andKS5/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.

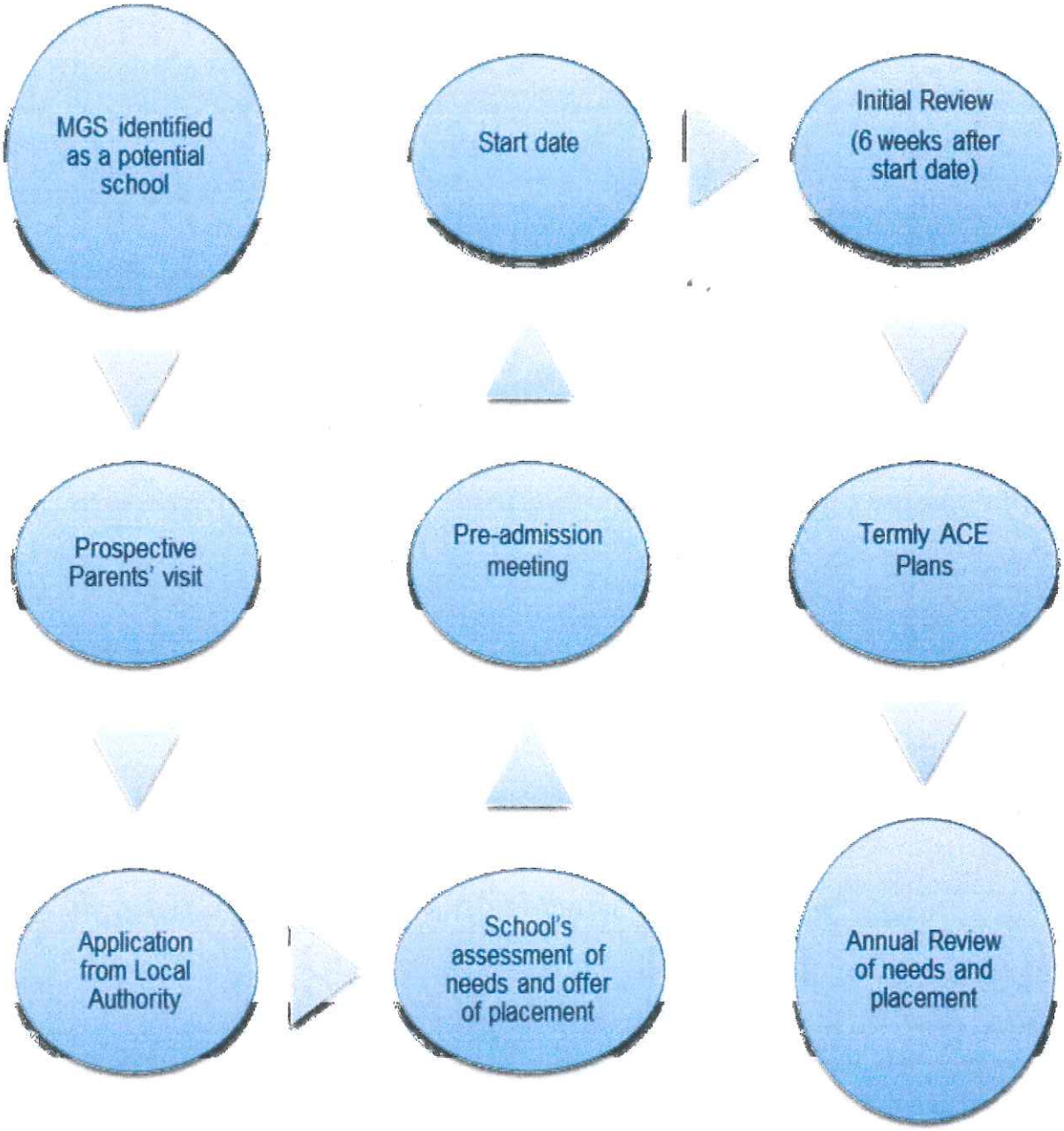
As the Headteacher of Manor Green School, I have no legal right to authorise term-time absence, apart from absences related to exceptional circumstances.

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

A student's journey

With many students joining our school and many preparing to take the big step into the future beyond MGS, I was reminded of the need of the parents to be clear about the process of assessing and reviewing our students' needs.

With this in mind, I write this piece to show the timeline and the protocol for communication of an individual student's journey through the school.



For some of our students, their time with us is short, for others - it forms an integral part of their lives for up to seventeen years!

We take every day as it comes, but also have high aspirations for our students when they leave.

The key to success is acceptance of the complexity of each of the students' special needs and effective communication.

Daily communication is led by the class the student belongs to with the class teacher using the communication book to maintain day-to-day contact with the families or carers.

ACE Plans, agreed termly, form medium term plans for focused teaching, learning and additional therapeutic interventions, embedded into the curriculum. Additionally, tips for school and home-based support are highlighted.

Once a year, a formal annual review of the students' needs takes place. These are chaired by the class teacher and attended by the family and, at times, by the commissioning Local Authority and additional professionals.

In some circumstances, where there is clear evidence of no progress being made by the student, where the special needs change significantly enough for us to have to amend the statement and/or where there is an imminent change of placement to another school planned, the review may be chaired by a more senior member of staff.

Additionally, we may also support newly qualified teachers and those who may struggle to chair the meeting due to currently presenting complex safeguarding concerns.

In most other cases, the class teachers are the best professionals to lead such reviews on the Headteacher's behalf, as they know their students best.

As ever, whilst we can only guarantee the attendance of MGS staff, we always welcome suggestions from families for those who should be invited to the reviews and any requests for additional experts to be invited.

COMPETITION

Choose a name for our newly refurbished building.

Open to all students, parents and staff

Send your ideas to Joolz.scarlett@manorgreenschool.co.uk

Closing date: 27 May 2016

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House of the Week (30)

I am pleased to report that the winning House for the week is:

STOREY

1st Storey	=	1507 pts
2nd Weir	=	1296 pts
3rd Simmonds	=	1178 pts
4th Peacock	=	1106 pts

Good luck to all students for next week!

Stars/Students of Week 29

Primary Department

Cruz Elder, William Dobson, Ollie Slade, Gurshan Tiwana, Hafsah Khan, Felix Lockley, Ethan Hume, Andrew White

Secondary Department

Imogen Johnson, Nathan Williams, Erin Selby, Alaric Kingsley, Connor Rooney, Sophie Nolan, Sam Hester, Ben Pagden, Scarlett Stephens, Victoria Keates, Lukas Berghouse, Wyne Nhau, Nathan Doyle Saquib Riaz

Therapeutic Learning Support Department

Sam Beasley, Ronnie Copas

NOTICES AND INFORMATION

(flyers attached electronically unless otherwise stated)

MGSFA (PTA) NOTICEBOARD: Attached to newsletter.

THE PARENTS' SHARE GROUP
Wednesday, 18 May 2016, 09:30-11:30 at MGS. The session is "Simple Signing for Beginner's – a taster session" and will be led by Kathleen Brown based on the communication system used in school.

CREATIVE WRITING COMPETITION FOR SECONDARY STUDENTS
This competition has been launched and students are asked to write a short story inspired by a possible or imaginary future. Further details are attached to the newsletter.

INFORMATION:

- **Community Warden update**
- **The Autism Group:** Pokemon Magic—Trading Card and Video Game Club, BCA, Maidenhead. Call 07454 375071 for further information or email: tagthamesvalley@gmail.com

KEY DIARY DATES: WEEK 31

Monday 9 May 2016	11:00	Cardio Wall Launch
Tuesday 10 May 2016	All day	Primary Moderation Day
	09:30-11:30	Full Governing Body meeting
	13:00	Secondary Prospective Parents' Visit
Thursday 12 May 2016	All day	Secondary Moderation Day
Friday 13 May 2016	All day	Term 5 Fundraising Day: "Pets as Therapy"
	09:30-10:00	AP Briggs' Class Assembly

MANOR GREEN SCHOOL
Friends Association

NoticeBoard

Thank You

A massively HUGE **Thank You** to all the parents, staff, friends and supporters of Manor Green School! Thanks to you, we have collected 517 Cash4Schools vouchers. This means that we have qualified to receive a share of the pot. We do not know yet how much money we are going to receive, as soon as we know, rest assured we will give it a big shout out on our social media outlets.

HeadSmart Campaign

Did you know EVERY day 27 people are diagnosed and EVERY year 5000 lives are lost due to brain tumours?

The average time to diagnose a childhood brain tumour is more than 9 weeks.

MGS Friends Association is actively working with The Brain Tumour Charity HeadSmart campaign to help reduce that time to 4 weeks or less.

This week, we will distribute 'HeadSmart' symptom cards to every child in the school to take home for parents to read, understand and keep. These small cards showing early indicators of a brain tumour are small enough to be carried in your purse or wallet. Please look out for these cards in your child's book bag.

The attached flyer, brilliantly illustrates the vital importance of awareness and early detection. Please have a thorough look.

Please help us support The Brain Tumour Charity; you might just save a life.

For more information:

www.thebraintumourcharity.org / @braintumourorg

Disco

We are holding another Disco at school on Sat 28th of May.

Junior Hall 2:00-4:00pm; Free Admission; Water & Crisps available;

Children must be accompanied at all times.

Family Fun Day – Save the Date

*****Sunday 17th of July 2016*****

We are organising a fun family day, open exclusively to the families of students and staff of Manor Green School. We are looking for people who can offer an attraction/entertainment/activity for the day. This could be you, a relative or a friend you may know. Our email is: mgsfa123@aol.com

We already have lots of fun lined up. It promises to be an exciting day. Make sure not to miss it! More details to follow.

Goodbye

The PTA would like to say a special thank you to Michelle O'Sullivan, Ethan's mum who most recently resigned from her post as Parent Governor. Without Michelle, we quite literally would not be here! Lucky for us, and for the school, Michelle is remaining in her position of PTA Chair!

Welcome

The PTA wishes to send hearty congratulations to Catherine Ann, Chloe's mum, for her recent appointment as Chair of Governors. For those who do not know Catherine Ann, she is a force unto itself. In the most complementary manner, Catherine Ann conjures the image of the Duracell bunny – the bunny that never runs out of power! We are most lucky to have her as Governors Chair and wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Next Meeting

MGSFA will be meeting again on Tuesday 7th of June at 12noon in the Parents Room. Please join us.

Please email us with any suggestions/requests/questions on:
mgsfa123@aol.com

You can also find us on:

HEADSMART
be brain tumour aware

Brain tumours are rare, but they do happen.

Ten children and young people are diagnosed each week in the UK.

It takes longer for them to be diagnosed in the UK than in many other countries.

Early diagnosis can improve the outcome.

Symptoms of brain tumours in children and young people vary, but they include:

- Headaches
- Vomiting
- Poor balance
- Difficulty walking
- Abnormal eye movements
- Deteriorating vision
- Fits or seizures

Be better informed about the symptoms

www.headsmart.org.uk

info@headsmart.org.uk

Freephone 0808 800 0004 free from landlines and most mobiles

Any child or young person with symptoms that are unusual for him or her, or are persistent or unexplained, should be seen by a GP. Please remember that any child or young person needing urgent medical help should be taken to the nearest emergency department. In an emergency dial 999.

HeadSmart is funded and promoted by The Brain Tumour Charity and run in partnership with CBTRC and RCPCH

The BRAIN TUMOUR CHARITY

Children's Brain Tumour

RCPCH Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

CBTRC Charitable Status Inland Revenue Number: X15294, The Brain Tumour Charity Registered Charity no: 1150054 (England and Wales) SC045081 (Scotland), RCPCH Registered Charity no: 1057744 © 2013 CBTRC, The University of Nottingham, The Brain Tumour Charity and RCPCH.

V3

OUR FUTURE

Creative writing competition for the secondary students

Join us on a future adventure!
Get enthused and motivated and write a short story inspired by a possible or imaginary future and win a prize!

Rules:

1. Only one entry per pupil.
2. Mini sagas must be **no longer** than 100 words; inclusion of symbols is welcome.
3. Entries can be handwritten or typed.
4. Each pupil's name and age must be included on their work.
5. Entries need to be in by 25/05/16; submitted to Mrs Sheehan's pigeonhole in the admin corridor.
6. The first, second and third places will receive prizes.

Community Wardens Update

May 2016

Good morning.

Crime remains low in the Royal Borough but there has been an increase in thefts from garages and sheds where it would appear that garden tools are being targeted. We need to encourage residents to review their security and to mark all gardens tools especially power tools.

Marking can be as basic as painting your postcode and house number in bold letters on the tools as this makes the items easily identifiable as well as making them less attractive to thieves.

I am still receiving a lot of complaints about vehicles which are parked to the annoyance of residents however they are legally parked and there is nothing that can be done about them.

I run a drop in hub at Woodlands Park Community Centre on the first Monday of the month in the mobile library vehicle. I am looking to set up others in Cox Green and Boyn Hill in the very near future.

As always should you need to contact me in regard to any issues then please do not hesitate to call using the below details.

Kind regards

Alan

Alan Herd
Community Warden
Cox Green and Woodlands Park
Community Safety
RBWM

Office 01628 685636
Mobile 07870 167250
E-mail Alan.Herd@rbwm.gov.uk

the autism group

What can I expect at Pokémon Magic?

Each session will have the same core activities to provide structure and predictability and will include:

Pokémon and Magic the Gathering

casual trading card games

Pokémon DS battling

casual gaming

Video games on the Wii U

including Pokémon Battle Revolution and other popular titles such as Smash Brothers and Mario Kart.

We will have experts in all of our activities on hand to help inexperienced and ambitious players to get more out of the game.

We want the young people to shape what we do, but activities we could offer include:

Official and unofficial tournaments
Pokémon/Magic league challenges and rewards
Pokémon and Magic Quizzes
Anime/Pokémon Pictionary/Cos play
Discounted Trading cards
Outings to regional and national events*

*Extra charges may apply.

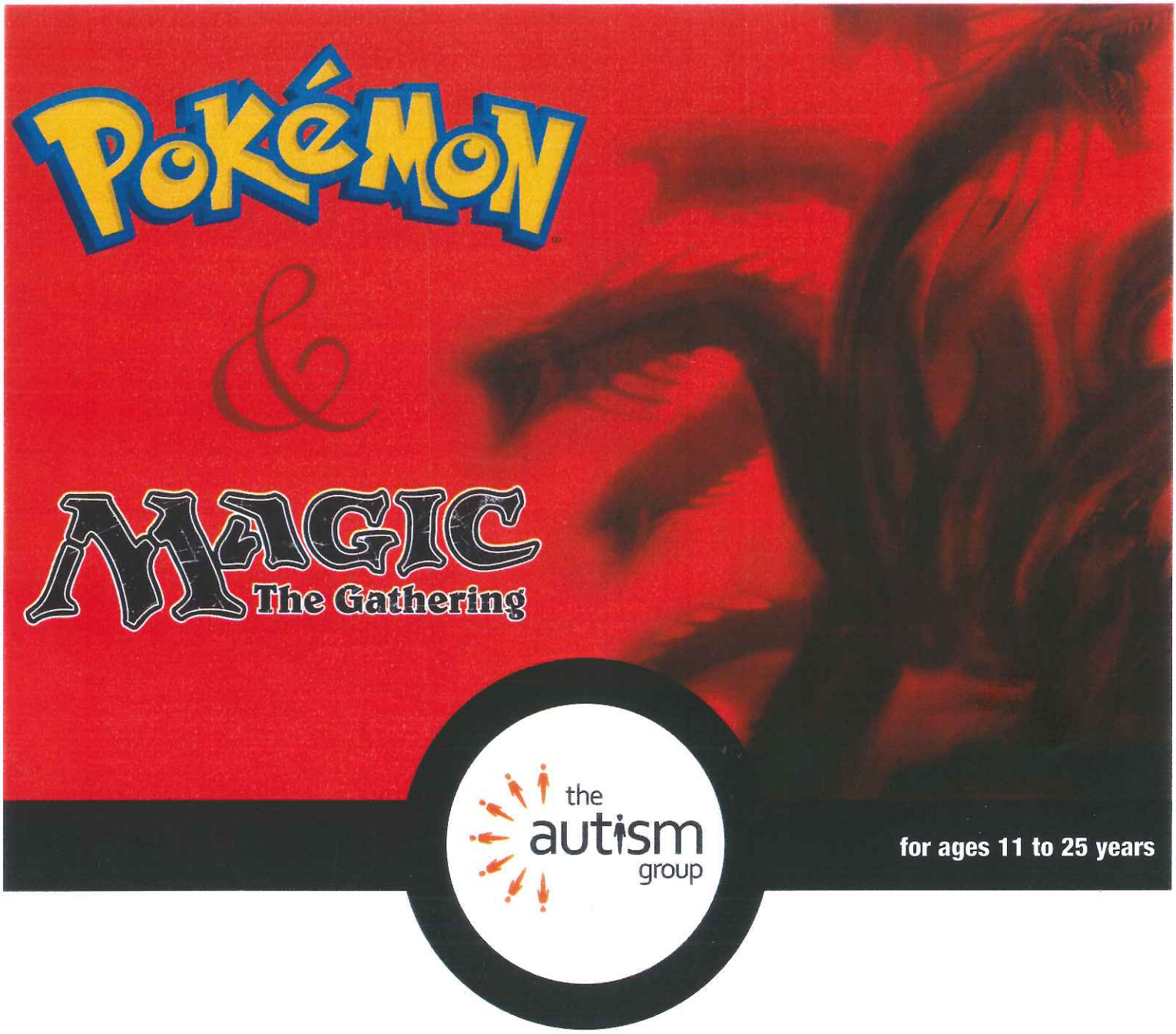
Pokémon™

MAGIC The Gathering®

Our values are acceptance and understanding

tagthamesvalley@gmail.com

The Autism Group, Registered office Chatsworth House, 29 Broadway, Maidenhead, Berkshire. SL6 1LY. Charity registration applied for. www.theautismgroup.org.uk



Trading Card & Video Game Club

for young people on the autism spectrum and their friends

Held at BCA (Berkshire College of Agriculture)
Maidenhead and at Elevate Hub, Nicholson Shopping Centre, Maidenhead

Cost £5.00 per session

If you are interested, call

07454 375071

tagthamesvalley@gmail.com

All staff and volunteers have DBS Clearance – Parents are welcome to stay to our parent support group.