



HOLLINWOOD ACADEMY

Spring Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME to our Spring newsletter for families, governors and stakeholders to find out all about what has been happening over the past term here at Hollinwood Academy!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our pupils, staff and families all the very best for Easter.

CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Head's Message | 3 |
| A Message from the Governors | 4 |
| KS2 SATs Meeting | 5 |
| Hospitality Work Experience | 5 |
| Work Experience | 6-7 |
| Evidence for Learning | 8-12 |
| Riding the Rapids | 13 |
| School Council | 14 |



INTERACT WITH US!

You can keep up with what we're doing here at Hollinwood Academy via our Facebook page and through our weekly blogs. The New Bridge Group Twitter and Facebook pages also provide regular updates from across the New Bridge family.

We love to see your feedback and comments and look forward to sharing our activities and adventures with you!



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LMD SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

Although this term has been a relatively short one, I think it is fair to say it has not felt that way. I would like to thank our families, children, and young people for your understanding over the term and more recently the past couple of weeks. We have had a significant number of staff and student absence from school due to positive, Covid-19 cases. Despite this situation, the school has remained calm and focused and learning has continued across all year groups. The staff in school have been excellent in supporting each other and I am pleased to say that the staff who have been unwell are now back in school. The support from our community during this challenging time has been exceptional and as always, I am extremely grateful.

It has been wonderful to welcome families and stakeholders back on-site and into school over recent weeks for different events and meetings. It seems a long time since we have been able to share our activities with families in the school building. We have held our first face-to-face Governors' meeting in March and it was wonderful to see everyone. We have held Riding the Rapids and Evidence for Learning parent sessions that I know have been gratefully received. We have welcomed Paula Green, Anthony Shaw, and the Oldham EHCP officers to Hollinwood Academy to see how much the school has changed over the years and they were amazed. Lastly, we held our parents' evening this week and it was lovely to welcome families back on site, the feedback from families was that it was good to be back.

As we come to the final week of the Spring term we say goodbye and good luck to Miss Rudge and Miss Collinge as they leave to take on new challenges in their new teaching posts after Easter. I am sure you will join me and the rest of the staff, Governors, and Trustees of Hollinwood Academy, and the New Bridge Group in wishing them lots of luck and success as they begin their new chapters in their career.

All that is left to say is have a wonderful Easter and we look forward to welcoming you all back for the start of the summer term on Monday 25th April 2022.

Mrs Millard

A MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNORS

We're well into the new year now as Spring promises to visit us. As ever, there has been so much to celebrate at Hollinwood Academy. The governors have been particularly impressed with new ways of sharing what is happening in the classroom with some fantastic work being done all round. It's so important for parents to be able to share in the successes of our young people and see the happiness it brings all round.

We wish all a very happy break and hope you all return to some lovely warm weather.

Thank you to all for another successful term.

Your Governors

KS2 SATS MEETING

For one week in May, Year 6 children will be tested on their reading, mathematics, and grammar, punctuation and spelling. They'll also have their writing assessed. The SATs tests don't give a definitive answer about how good a child is at English or Maths, and they don't tell us how good they'll be at these subjects in the future. They don't tell us how accomplished our children are in other important areas of the curriculum such as the humanities, sport or the arts. The tests are designed to be a snapshot of what children can do at the end of Year 6, testing the skills and knowledge that will help children to go on and do well at Secondary school.

At Hollinwood Academy, all year 6 students have completed the INCAS papers to determine who will be sitting the KS2 SATs. The year 6 staff teams have met with parents to discuss and support the upcoming SATs papers prior to their transition into September. During the meeting, we gave the parents Maths and English papers so they could get familiar with the layout and expectations. Parents were told how to support their child at home and how they would be supported in school. As a school, we will be using the SATs to see how we can best support the students as they transition into Secondary, more details of this can be discussed with the class teachers at parents evening.

Mrs Needham attended the meeting to demonstrate how Evidence for Learning is used to track, monitor and evidence student progression. She offered further advice to parents on how to communicate with school using this app.

HOSPITALITY WORK EXPERIENCE

This term we have had a number of parent support group meetings. These meetings are a fantastic opportunity for our students to do some hospitality work experience. Meeting and greeting parents brings the students out of their comfort zones and builds their confidence in speaking to people that they are unfamiliar with, but this is done within their safe environment of school.

Hollinwood Academy would like to say a huge thank you to the parents for being encouraging and patient with our work experience team, and for allowing them to take part in these opportunities.

Here are just a few comments from the students involved in the work experience:

WORK EXPERIENCE

Student name: Kurt

What did your work experience involve?

Serving tea and coffee.

How did it make you feel?

It made me feel fine, I enjoyed it.

What are your plans for the future?

Not so sure.

Did this work experience help?

Yes it helped, I learnt how to do stuff correctly, good management, good timing, good employability skills.



Student name: Rio

What did your work experience involve?

We made cups of teas, I offered biscuits out.

How did it make you feel?

Alright, it was kind of helpful.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to be a historian.

Did this work experience help?

I learned how to make tea and coffee.

Student name: Nathan

What did your work experience involve?

Offering people cups of tea and what you want being a servant for them.

How did it make you feel?

It was decent it felt like there was something to do.

What are your plans for the future?

Il want to become a builder.

Did this work experience help?

I'm not so sure.

Student name: Olivia

What did your work experience involve?

I made tea and coffee

How did it make you feel?

No comment

What are your plans for the future?

Commissions artist

Did this work experience help?

It was ok.



Student name: : Joshua

What did your work experience involve?

I was taking drinks to the customers, getting out biscuits and having a great time.

How did it make you feel?

Good, I liked it a lot.

What are your plans for the future?

Working in Starbucks (or be a wrestler).

Did this work experience help?

Yes, it helped a lot as it's exactly the sort of thing I would like to do in the future.

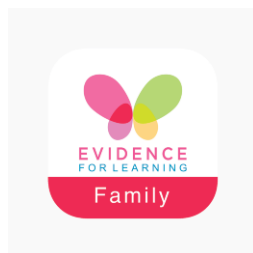


EVIDENCE FOR LEARNING

Hollinwood Academy have stopped using Class Dojo to communicate and share learning with parents. All class teams have now moved onto Evidence for Learning as a means of communication with parents and to share students' learning and progress. We realise that some parents have struggled with this transition from Class Dojo to Evidence for learning, and as a school we have put on a face to face parent support group to showcase the new resource which was well received. The staff team talked through the new app and features. We will also be having parent drop in sessions with some of the staff team on parents evening.



Parents will soon be able to see their child's EHCP step targets on Evidence for Learning. As parents, you will be able to share how your child is meeting their step targets outside of the school environment. As a school we love to see what the young people have been up to at home because this helps with the positive conversations that we have in class. Please share your photos with the class teachers using the 'Capture' feature of the family app.



Some quick tips to get you started on the Evidence for Learning Family App:

1. Make sure you download the correct version of the App. The App needs to say 'Family' in a pink bar.

2. Use the 'Feedback' link to direct message the staff.

3. Share your photos and videos by clicking 'Capture'.



Madison helping to make Spaghetti Bolognese for tea









Hollinwood Academy introduced Evidence for Learning in late October 2021. Evidence for learning enables staff to evidence, assess, review and plan for meeting the unique needs of our learners. Initially, the resource was trialed with our Early Years children and with the older students that were doing Asdan qualifications that require photographic evidence. The impact on reducing teacher workload, and monitoring student progress over time has been considerable. Over time, the new evidence tool has been implemented into the communication classes, across primary to monitor and track progress in Maths, English, and science.

For students in the communication classes, their learning videos have been shared with parents. Through the use of the videos, parents have then been able to continue this learning at home. The progress in these students has been immense. It is an absolute delight to see the home learning videos that are being shared from parents.

More recently, staff have started to track and assess students EHCP targets on Evidence for Learning. The feedback from annual review meetings has been very positive. Staff have been able to create portfolios using the evidence submitted and then shared these portfolios at the review meetings. As a school, all EHCPs will soon be tracked and evidenced on Evidence for Learning and we will welcome your photos and videos in the review process.



RIDING THE RAPIDS

This term Hollinwood Academy have hosted their first Riding the Rapids course for parents and carers. Emma Lerigo and Danielle Collinge recently became trained tutors in this behavior management support programme and facilitated this training.

Riding the Rapids is a free course offered to parents and carers of children who have a diagnosis of Autism, severe learning disabilities or complex physical disabilities. The course aims to help parents to understand and manage challenging behaviour. The course ran for 10 weeks, with each session lasting approximately 2 hours. Each week we covered the various aspects of understanding and managing behaviour of children with Autism or another disability.

Parents and carers started the course by deciding on a target behaviour they would like to change, and then putting together a plan to tackle it using a variety of strategies.

Over the weeks and through discussion, direct teaching, practicing ideas and watching videos of other parents talking about their experiences, parents and carers used these ideas to put strategies into place.

The sessions have at times induced some tears, but mostly we have had fun and laughter, with an opportunity to share and to not feel 'alone'.

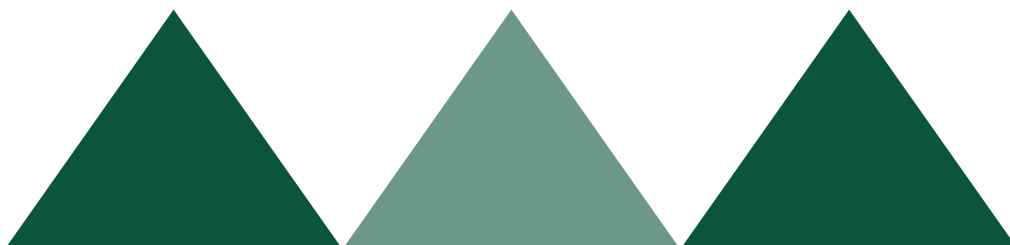
We have received great feedback from parents who attended, and we hope to start another course in the Summer Term. Please get in touch with school if this is something you would be interested in starting.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

This term, Hollinwood school councilors (SCRs) have been hard at work creating events for our school community. Events have included Red Nose Day - where we held a bake sale and invited pupils to wear red - raising over £340 for Comic Relief; as well as supporting the English department for World Book Day. For our upcoming Easter event, SCRs have decided to raise funds to improve Hollinwood Academy's library resources. Activities planned include an Easter egg hunt, an egg decorating competition, a 'name the rabbit' fundraiser, a bake sale, and an Easter raffle. In addition, the school community are invited to bring in their unwanted books to donate to Hollinwood Academy's library.

SCRs have also proved vital in providing feedback on a range of projects and plans, including: a potential app for school; what reward afternoons should look like for the highest scoring form each half term; and - most importantly - raising pupil's voices on how Hollinwood Academy's practices and policies are viewed by pupils. The enthusiasm and hunger that SCRs have shown in improving Hollinwood Academy for the better, has been felt around the whole school community, and we value their commitment. We cannot wait to see what they have planned next. Did somebody say summer fete?





Creating Meaningful Futures



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*Learning Together
Learning for All
Learning for Life*



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