

# End of Term Newsletter

Dec 2023 Issue 3

## Head Teacher Update

Wow - a full term has flashed before our eyes!

What a great term we have had across all our sites. From the primary school development, welcoming a new Primary Lead - Miss Forbes who moved across from secondary, to develop a bigger outreach team to support our community. The primary team have been working hard on their curriculum and routines - we are proud of the efforts of our young people and staff there!

The secondary team have been embedding our new routines, up-skilling themselves in new curriculum courses. We have seen such a positive term, with uniform, attitudes to learning and a real culture shift for our students and staff. We have seen students attending trips; maths theatre trip and the panto! (oh yes, we did!), creating tuck shops as part of life skills, sitting mocks and Functional Skills Maths at school, painting the school site, and really get into school life.

Our final big day of the year is Enterprise Day on the 15th, where staff and students have been preparing for the Christmas Market - parents and community welcome! We have some fabulous gifts that our students have made, as well a raffle that our staff team have pulled together from very kind local donations!

We are very proud of the two school reviews we have had this term, a Challenge Partners Review and an Internal Trust review.

We have had such positive feedback on the Hospital Team and the wonderful work they do for our young people, as well as primary, secondary and outreach teams.

May I take this opportunity to thank the students, staff, parents and carers for your continued support and I hope you have an enjoyable Christmas break.

We look forward to what Term 2 brings in 2024!

**Ceri Burns**  
Head Teacher



## Key Dates

**Weds 21 December**  
End of Term 1:15pm

**Mon 8 January**  
Start of Term

**Fri 26 January**  
Pastoral Day

**Fri 23 February**  
Inset Day  
(School closed)

**Mon 26 February**  
Mock Week

**Thurs 29 February**  
Functional Skills  
Maths Exam

**Tues 19 March**  
Functional Skills  
English Exam

**Mon 25 March**  
School Report Week



Cranbury Road, Reading RG30 2TS | 0118 937 6847

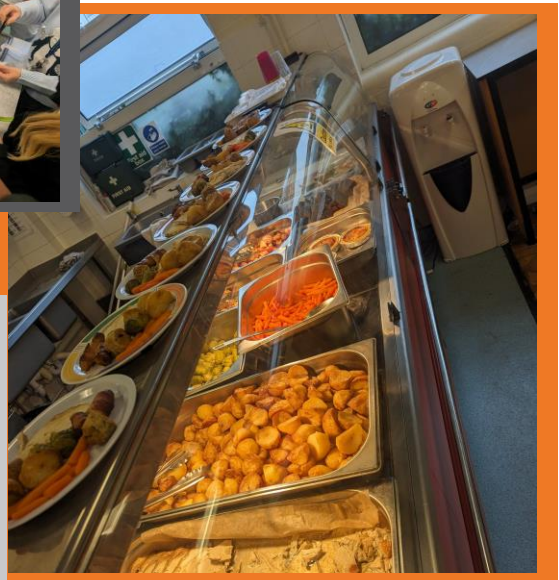
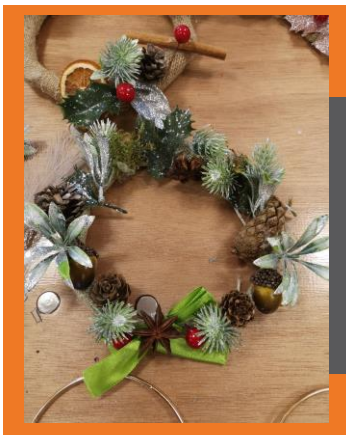
# Deputy Head Teacher Update

A huge thankyou to all the students, staff and wider community who contributed to our Christmas Fair on 15th December. The fair not only provided an opportunity to build relationships with the local community, but also enabled our students to learn about enterprise and plan successfully for business ventures. The fair was a success and we raised money for our chosen charity Save the Children as well as additional equipment for the students to enjoy at Cranbury. We are already looking forwards to next year!

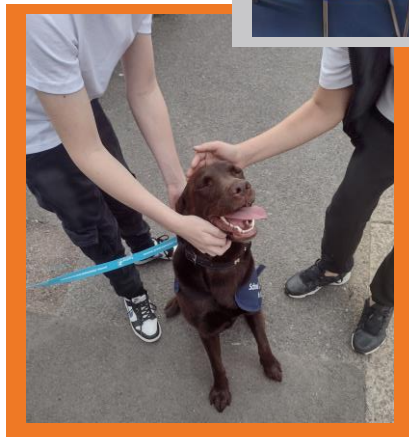
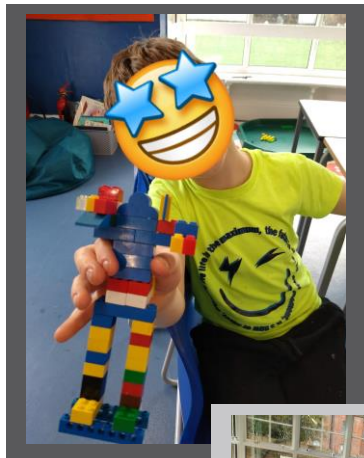
On 5th December, six year 9 students attended the Potted Panto at Reading Rep and had a great time! It was an opportunity for our students to experience live theatre and enjoy various fairytales coming to life. The trip linked nicely with our schemes of learning in English and helped the student's put theory into practical skills!

**Claire Willmott**

Deputy Head Teacher - Curriculum and Standards



# Department Updates



## Primary Update

The Christmas fair was a huge success. Primary pupils enjoyed creating a range of sensory toys to sell at the fair. Cranbury are so proud of how the children pushed themselves out of their comfort zones to sell their goodies in new and busy environment. Well done Primary!

**Kayleigh Forbes**

Assistant Head Teacher/Primary Lead

## SEN

The Christmas season can be a very busy one for families especially managing the festivities and changes to routine with children who have SEN. However, there are also some great things going on in the local area and here are a few family-friendly activities that you may want to check out. Particularly if you have younger children. A few activities can be found here [Christmas Activities Reading](#)

At all times life may prove challenging for families but especially at a time when people may struggle a little more, this link may help some families with food and other services that can support in all manner of ways [Launchpad - Food and Local Services over Christmas](#)

## Indie-Therapy Dog

Indie has continued to support students in coming into lessons. He is looking forward to the new year where he will be working with his handlers to deliver a few interventions. Can you add to Indie's bit that he has passed his training too!

**Lou Bedford**

1-1 Tutor and SENDco



## English Department Update

We have been busy this half term in KS4 English, preparing for the mock exams that students sat towards the end of November. It was great to see such commitment from our students who gained an insight into what the examination process will be in the summer term. We hope that they now have a baseline to work on and develop ready for the real exams in the summer.

On our return from the Christmas break, year 9 and 10 will begin preparation for their functional skills exams that they will sit in the Spring Term so please do encourage your child to start their revision!

**Claire Willmott**  
Head of English

## Maths Department Update

The maths department had several successes in term 1. Students sat entry level functional skills exams in November and 85% passed. We also had one student pass at Level 1 which is an excellent achievement! Year 11s also went on a maths trip to Winchester to watch a series of entertaining lectures on applied mathematics. It was a great day out, which showed students where a maths education can take you to some interesting places, like the M3 on a Friday afternoon.

**Jack Alcock**  
Head of Maths



## Science Department Update

We've had a busy term in Science, looking at a range of topics.

Our Year 11s have been working hard on their mock exams and completing past papers to prepare for their real exams as well as their next mocks. Y10 have been looking at respiration and we've had fantastic lessons looking at how we get our energy and what we use it for. KS3 have been exploring genetics, whilst Y9 explored cells.

We're looking forward to next term where we will be doing lots of practical and hands on work in Science. Happy Christmas from the Science Department!

**Abi Russell**  
Head of Science

## Re-Engagement Intervention Workshops

We offer the below workshops to a small group of secondary students from local schools who would benefit from specific interventions.

Workshop 1 - Anger management/school expectations - Mondays

Workshop 2 - Healthy relationships/re-engagement - Wednesdays

Workshops 3 - Conflict management/risk taking - Fridays

This term we started with 6 students from several schools in Reading who are coming to the end of their programme. They have all learned some new skills that they can take away with them.

Workshops 1 and 2 have so far proved to be more popular this term. They have been able to find ways of decreasing their anger levels, improve their problem-solving communication skills, understand the difference between negative and positive relationships with peers and staff in school and others within the community. This is just a snippet of some of the skills they are learning.

**Sharon Quittenton**

Re-Engagement Lead

## Safe Team Update

We've have been really busy this term!

YR 10/11 students had their mock exams in preparation for the GCSE exams in May/June and I'm happy to report they went brilliantly. The behaviour and attitude of the students was excellent and most definitely a huge improvement on previous years so well done to all the students who took the exams so seriously!

All our students have been busy preparing for our Christmas Fayre that took place on the 15 Dec. Every student was involved in making/ decorating/ creating/ baking and even sewing something that was sold on our stalls.

Another first we had; we took a small group of students to see a panto at The Reading Rep Theatre. It was a wonderful experience for everyone involved and one we will be repeating next year!

Thank you to the NHS school nursing team who came in this term to deliver some Sexual Health Awareness sessions to all the students. Our nurse Abbie will be offering regular drop-in sessions for the students from January.

**Nicky Dziewulska-Miles**

Safe Lead

# Hospital Team Update

I can't believe that we are just days away from Christmas, this term has gone so quickly. The Hospital Teachers have taught over 320 individual school-aged patients since September, despite significant illnesses within the team. We have taught a wide range of subjects, from Phonics to German, handwriting to A-level Maths. There has been a wide range of Art and Design Technology projects including the very popular Gonks which we sold at the Cranbury Christmas Fair. The team spent a very enjoyable day at one of our trust schools, Birch Hill Primary School in Bracknell where we learnt about the teaching of electricity within the primary age range – we had lots of fun carrying out the experiments and look forward to teaching this topic to our patients in the New Year. We have welcomed a range of visitors to the wards to showcase the work we do with our patients and discuss the benefits of teaching whilst in hospital.

As the term comes to a close, we would like to extend a special thank you to two of our long-term patients, Katie and Joley who made a large number of Christmas Gonks which we were able to sell at the Christmas Fair. They were extremely popular, and we were very proud to have sold out! The monies raised will be donated to Young Lives v Cancer, a charity which works tirelessly to support the families affected by cancer.

And finally, we would like to thank [Toys & Teens Appeal](#) who very generously donated gifts, so we are able to provide our patients with a Christmas present.

We would like to wish all our patients and their families a very Happy Holiday and a prosperous New Year!

**Gill Albone**

Lead Hospital Teacher



# Pastoral Updates

As we come to the end of the first term, it is a good time of the year to reflect on all of the positives we have had so far this academic year. Students have embraced our new uniform and are beginning to see the outcomes on their education by not having their mobile phones out during lesson time. We thank parents/carers for their support with our new rules and appreciate the support you have given in ensuring we are all working together to achieve the very best for our children. Student lateness to school has seen a huge improvement as well since September and overall, our positive points that we award students when they are 'getting it right' have risen and our behaviour points have dropped with students working on their ability to 'put it right' with our help.

Students have continued with their Tutor group attendance challenges introduced at the beginning of the year and increasingly we are seeing the 'fight' to win and get the best attendance collectively has been very tight.

We welcomed Lucy, our new school therapist at the beginning of the year and her support with our students has been invaluable in ensuring our students receive the intervention they need. Lucy works with a number of our students using a variety of techniques and methods to help guide them when solving problems, building resilience and supporting them to remove barriers that are preventing them from being successful both in and out of school. This intervention forms part of a large range of interventions that we offer our students at Cranbury College, and we are sure our students will continue to thrive in her sessions.

This academic year, we introduced a range of pathways to Cranbury College to ensure that all of our students have access to a timetable that is appropriate and that they can be successful on. We review each student's pathway every two weeks and communicate with parents if we believe there needs to be an adjustment to their provision. So far, this academic year, we have increased a number of students hours in education which we believe, gives them further opportunities in the future.

One of our roles at Cranbury College is to support schools in the local area with advice and guidance to avoid Permanent Exclusion for their students. As part of our offer, we provide workshops for schools on Anger Management, School Expectations, Healthy Relationships, Conflict Management and Risk Taking. We also introduced 'Behaviour Clinics' for schools this academic year to discuss concerns they have and receive timely and informed advice about suitable alternatives to suspension and permanent exclusion. So far, we have supported our local schools with 18 clinics and supported 27 children to receive the support they need within their school.

## **Charlotte Baggley**

Assistant Head Teacher

Behaviour, Wellbeing and Personal Development



# Helpful Links

Care2HaveFun	<a href="#"><u>Care2HaveFun - Brighter Futures For Children</u></a>
Holiday Activities and Food scheme on behalf of Reading Borough Council	<a href="https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/haf/"><u>https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/schools/haf/</u></a>
Animal Assisted Activities (Indie Training Provider)	<a href="https://www.canineassistedlearning.com/"><u>https://www.canineassistedlearning.com/</u></a>
School Therapist – Lucy	<a href="https://www.briym.co.uk/"><u>https://www.briym.co.uk/</u></a>
Family Activities	<a href="https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/family-activities/"><u>https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/family-activities/</u></a>
Early Help	<a href="https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/early-help/"><u>https://brighterfuturesforchildren.org/for-parents-carers/early-help/</u></a>

## Services for Families

### Keeping Children Safe Online this Christmas

With the Christmas festivities just around the corner, children are looking forward to receiving gifts. For many, this may be devices that allow you to go online. Even with the best intentions, many parents have a false sense of how to keep their child secure, or think their child is more secure than they actually are.

I hope you find this free resource valuable and if you wish to explore future training opportunities on keeping children safe online, please [click here](#) to watch a short video on what is Safety Net and dates.

We value our partnerships with multi-agency safeguarding partners and supporting organisations across the UK in a collective effort to keep children safe online.

SKIPS Educational

It's Christmas Time – Parents guide to help keep children safe online

**It's Christmas Time!**

**A Parent's Guide to Social Media**

**A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures**

**A Parent's Guide to Gaming**

**A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming**

**A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers**

**A Parent's Guide to Fake News**

**A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings**

**It's always best to be prepared**

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period. Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games. Scan the QR code to find out more.

**Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.**

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office "PREVENT", The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: [info@skipsed.com](mailto:info@skipsed.com) Tel: +44 121 227 1941

**Skips** [www.skipssafetynet.org](http://www.skipssafetynet.org)

Developed in partnership with

Home Office  
NATIONAL POLICE  
CHIEF'S OFFICE

West Midlands  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner

West Midlands  
Police and Crime  
Commissioner



# Parenting Support Programmes

## **World of Emotions (WoE)**

**12/01/24 9.30-12.30pm**

**Free online session via MS Teams. Anyone who is closely involved in a child who attends an MHST school, is welcome to attend. See list [here](#).**

*World of Emotions is not a parenting course, but rather an opportunity for parents/carers to gain more skills to understand and support their child/young person's wellbeing. It will cover a range of emotions and difficulties (e.g. low mood/depression, anxiety, self-harm, disordered eating, challenging behaviour towards others etc). Complete the [MHST Referral Form](#), saying you would like to attend.*

## **Raising your Child's Self-Esteem**

**23/01/24 9.30-11am**

**Free online session via MS Teams**

For any Reading parent/carer of a child aged 5-18.

*Is your child struggling with feelings of low self-worth? Do they not recognise their strengths? compare themselves to others? lack self-confidence? This 90-minute MHST workshop is aimed at parents, carers and professionals. We will explore the causes of low self-esteem and discuss strategies to raise self-esteem and build positive self-worth. To book complete [this form](#)*

## **Understanding and Supporting Attention for Learning**

**25/01/24 9:30am – 12:30pm**

**Free in person. Venue: St Johns Primary School, 121-147 Orts Rd, Reading RG1 3JN**

For parents/carers with children of school age in a Reading school.

*This workshop is targeted towards parents/carers whose children struggle with attention. This may include children who have a diagnosis of ADHD / ADD but is also open to parents of children who struggle with attention but do not have a diagnosis. The workshop explores how attention difficulties may present, support strategies and how SEN support may look in school. **To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)***

## **Helping your Child with Fears and Worries**

**31/01/24 9.30- 12.00pm**

**Free online session via MS Teams**

For parents/carers of a child attending any Reading School that is aged 5-12 years.

*Teaches parents and carers Cognitive Behavioural Strategies to help children to overcome their anxiety. The approaches in the workshop are designed to help with "irrational" fears, for example, specific phobias, separation anxiety or generalised anxiety. Not intended for children and young people with an autism diagnosis or are pre verbal. **To book or for more information email [Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org](mailto:Wilma.Williams@brighterfuturesforchildren.org)***

# Kids Eat Free



## PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) CHRISTMAS HALF TERM 2023

[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)



### MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

### BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

### SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

### THE REAL GREEK

Free Kids Meal for every £10 spent by an adult from Friday 22nd December 2023 until Sunday 7th January 2024.

### TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

### TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' buy any adult meal (Via App)

### HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

### IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

### SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

### GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

### BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

### WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

### PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day on weekends and from 4pm weekdays with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

### PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

### TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

### FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

### NOT ANNOUNCED...

M&S, Tesco, YO! Sushi & Bills

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