



Higham Lane North Academy SEND Newsletter

WHERE 'EVERYONE IS INCLUDED AND EVERYONE BELONGS!'

At Higham Lane North Academy inclusion is a vital part of everything that we do.

We aim to provide all students including those with Special Educational Need and Disabilities a high-quality and ambitious education and wider school experience. We aim to breakdown barriers and provide opportunities so all students can thrive.

If you have any questions regarding SEND support, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

Miss Rounce

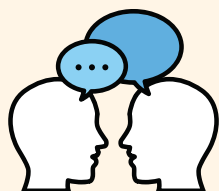
This term, we continue to strengthen inclusive provision for students with additional needs, enabling them to access the curriculum effectively and participate fully in all aspects of school life. As part of our quality first teaching approach, staff consistently reduce cognitive load within the classroom through highly effective metacognitive strategies to reduce barriers to learning and promote understanding across all subject areas.

Students are supported through reasonable adjustments, helping them to engage confidently with lessons, classroom discussion and assessment. Targeted support is also in place to develop social communication and self-advocacy skills through our therapeutic intervention timetable, ensuring pupils are prepared to manage increasing independence and expectations.

Parents and carers are encouraged to reinforce these approaches at home by using clear instructions, allowing thinking time and supporting organisation around homework and communication.

Supporting Communication and Interaction Needs at Home

As students move through secondary school, communication and social expectations become more complex. Supporting your child at home can help reduce anxiety, build confidence and strengthen independence.



Use clear communication

Students with communication and interaction needs benefit from clear, concise language. Breaking information into small steps, giving one instruction at a time, and avoiding over-talking can help them process information more effectively.



Allow thinking and response time

Many pupils with communication needs require extra time to process questions or organise responses. Allow pauses in conversation and avoid rushing or interrupting. This helps pupils feel respected and confident in communicating.



Encourage different ways to communicate

Some students communicate more comfortably through writing, texting, key words, or digital tools. Accepting and encouraging different communication methods helps them to feel heard and reduces frustration.



Support organisation and independence

Supporting the use of planners, reminders or checklists at home can reduce communication barriers and support developing independence.



Working together with school

Sharing what works well at home helps school staff provide consistent support.



This week in Orion...

Students took part in a Cheerio challenge! They estimated the number of Cheerio's in cups and boxes, created patterns/pictures, built towers, explored the importance of carbohydrates and then used the Cheerio's to make another type of bird feeder. They placed their feeders on the tree in the SEND garden.



Neurodivergent week - Students were keen to help prepare model brains. They showed patience and perseverance during the paper mache activity and were surprised at the results the following day.



Using their home-grown basil, students made a delicious pizza snack following a simple recipe. The pizza was very tasty, and the students were proud of what they had made - some left saying they were going to make them again for their families!



Orion Easter Coffee Shop for staff took place on the last day of the term with Victoria Sponge, egg nests and brownies on ale - all made by the students! The staff were very complimentary of the cakes and hot drinks on offer.



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Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Dimensions tool



Free online personalised self-care information & support for adults and children in Coventry & Warwickshire

Positivity

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." - Alice Morse Earle.

Positivity means focusing on the good things in life, even when things get tough. It's about thinking and acting in a way that makes you feel happy and hopeful. Being positive can help you feel better, solve problems, and have a more joyful life.

Our tips for practising positivity:

- **Focus on the good** – Look for the positive in every situation. Every day, there is always something positive.
- **Use positive words** – Try saying things like "I can do this" or "I'll keep trying and I will get there".
- **Be kind to yourself** – Don't be too hard on yourself. Try to remind yourself that you are trying your best. Celebrate any small successes!
- **Practise gratitude** – Think about three things that you are thankful for each day. It could be something as simple as a sunny day or a friend saying something nice to you.
- **Spend time with positive people.**
- **Find something you enjoy** – Whether it is a hobby, sport, quality time with friends and family, or watching your favourite TV programme, doing something you love can bring you joy.
- **Try using positive affirmations** – Tell yourself one positive thing every day, like "I am enough" or "I am trying my best".
- **Help others** – Helping someone else, even in a small way, can make you feel good about yourself too.
- **Keep a positive journal** – Write down things that you are proud of or moments that made you smile.

Positivity makes a big difference!

When you practise positivity, you start seeing the world in a brighter way. You can face challenges with confidence and believe in yourself.

Positivity is also contagious — when you're positive, you inspire others to be positive too!

In Coventry and Warwickshire, for any urgent mental health concerns, contact the RISE Crisis Helpline available 24/7, by calling NHS 111. Alternatively, call 999 or visit A&E in an emergency, for example if medical attention is required.

MHST are available to support you and your school throughout the school year including term time and school holidays.

Please contact your school's Mental Health Lead for information and advice.

PARENTS & CARERS SEND & INCLUSION WORKSHOPS



Central England Academy Trust invite all parents and carers from across our schools to attend 6 (free-of-charge) SEND & Inclusion workshops, delivered by Louisa McGivney (Specialist Teacher in Autism and Complex Communication Needs).

**FRI
24TH
APRIL**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 1
Understanding and supporting your child with Autism

BOOK NOW

Spaces are limited. To book, complete the online form. Speak to your school office if you require assistance

[Booking Form Link](#)

**FRI
1ST
MAY**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 2
Supporting your child with self-care and independence

**FRI
8TH
MAY**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 3
Understanding and supporting the sensory differences of your child with Autism



**FRI
15TH
MAY**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 4
Understanding and supporting your child with their behaviours

**FRI
5TH
JUNE**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 5
Understanding and supporting your child with their learning

**FRI
12TH
JUNE**

9.30am -
12.00pm

Session 6
Understanding and supporting your child with social communication, friendships and relationships

LOCATION

Higham Lane North Academy, Upper Farm Drive, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, CV11 6YN

(what3words:
///loaf.named.finds)



Refreshments will be provided - we look forward to meeting you!



Oak Wood
Primary



Oak Wood
Secondary



Higham Lane School
Work Hard | Be Kind | Take Responsibility



Top tips for improving attendance!

School attendance is an important aspect of a child's educational journey, but for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), maintaining regular attendance can present challenges. Regular school attendance is essential for all children as it provides stability, continuity, and access to a broad curriculum. It also supports social development, allowing children to form friendships and develop important life skills.

- Working collaboratively- we encourage open communication between home and school, your child and their house champion to ensure we can address any concerns or worries your child might have regarding school.
- Establish a consistent routine - create consistent morning and bedtime routines to ensure your child gets enough sleep and are prepared for the school day
- Encourage positive behaviours- encourage your child to participate in school activities, co-curricular clubs and engage with their peers.

Where can I turn to for help outside of school?

