



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.

SEND Café

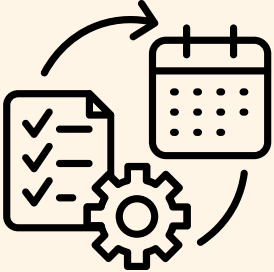
Our next SEND café is scheduled for Thursday 4th June 3.30pm-4.30pm. We will be focusing on the transition from year 7 into year 8 as well as how to support your child with these changes. An email will be sent with a booking link nearer the time.

Supporting with transition and change!

As we approach the end of the summer term, there are several transitions and changes that we will be preparing students for such as welcoming a new year group, moving into year 8, different teachers and new classrooms.

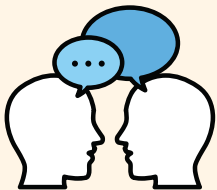
Transitions affect children in different ways. For some, change is exciting, while for others, it can be overwhelming. We are committed to supporting your child with these transitions so they feel well prepared and not overwhelmed as these changes take place and we would encourage you to support your child similarly at home.

Key Strategies to Support Transitions



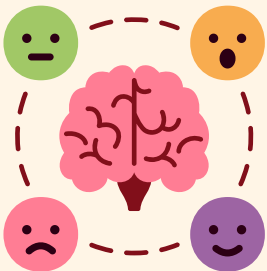
1. Preparation and Planning

- **Start Early:** Give children plenty of time to prepare for upcoming transitions.
- **Use Visual Aids:** Social stories, visual timetables and transition books can help children understand what to expect.



2. Consistent Communication

- **Talk About the Change:** Have open discussions about the transition, allowing children to express their feelings and concerns.

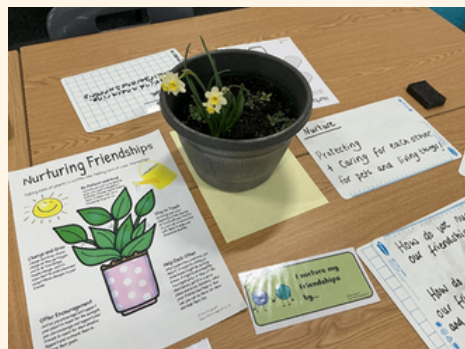


3. Emotional Support

- **Validate Feelings:** Acknowledge any worries and reassure children that their feelings are normal.
- **Encourage Expression:** Use drawings, role-playing, or storytelling to help children process their emotions.



This week in Orion...



Friendships

During nurture we explored how taking care of plants is a little like taking care of friendships: Patience & kindness to grow, watering and staying in touch, support to flourish, help when sad and allow to change and grow! We also got to admire our lovely daffodils during the activity.



Testing our senses!

Could you identify the correct flavour crisp? If you were blindfolded and couldn't use your sense of smell. We tried this in Orion and the students found that they could not taste accurately without their sense of smell and sight in some cases! Strange results, such as selecting BBQ pringles when they were sour cream and onion.



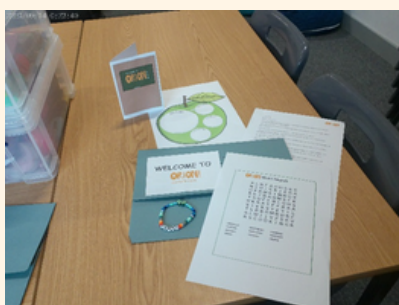
Mindfulness

Slow down and take your time. Focus on what you're doing in a calm way. Students opted to make models out of clay.



New students

Students have been busy creating welcome packs for the new year 7 students. All items have been created and designed by them. They are looking forward to the transition mornings and giving out their welcome packs.



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◆ This week in Orion...



Science - Particle Model

As part of our current topic students made Oobleck, this was very messy but encouraged discussion about the properties of solids and liquids.

Oobleck is a fascinating non-Newtonian fluid that demonstrates the properties of both solids and liquids, making it an excellent example for exploring states of matter.

Zoo lab

On Thursday, Zoo lab visited student in Orion to showcase some interesting animals and share details about their life cycles.

What a fantastic opportunity for the students to observe, handle and learn about some unusual animals.



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?



Parent/Carer SEND and inclusion workshops

The CEAT parent and carers SEND and Inclusion workshops have started here at HLNA. They have been well received by those parents across the trust who have attended so far. There is still time to secure your place for the remaining workshops. Please see the details and booking form below.

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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

LOCATION

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

**FRI
12TH
JUNE**

9.30am -
12.00pm

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

(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





Mental Health in Schools Team Tips For Wellness



Dimensions tool



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

Get Outdoors

Spending time outdoors is great for your body and mind! It can improve your mood, reduce feelings of stress, improve your confidence, helps you to be more active and can reduce loneliness.

How to get outside more:

1. Take a Nature Walk

Find a park, trail, or even your garden and take a walk. Look around for birds, trees, and flowers that you can spot. You could try taking photographs and share them with a friend.

2. Play a Sport or Game

Whether it's football, netball or running, outdoor sports are a great way to get moving. They also help us develop our communication skills when we play as part of a team!

3. Do a Scavenger Hunt

Make a list of things to find outside—like a particular leaf or a butterfly—and go on a hunt to find them!

4. Bring Your Hobby Outside

Do you like drawing, reading, or listening to music? Try doing it outside! Find a comfy spot on the grass and enjoy your favourite activities in the fresh air.

5. Have a snack outside

Try taking a snack outside and eating it while focusing on the food and what is going on around you.

6. Watch the Stars

On a clear night, lie on a blanket and look up at the stars. You might even see a shooting star or spot constellations.

7. Meet up with a friend outside

It can be helpful to get outdoors every day, even if only for a short time. You could try walking to a friend's house or to the shop instead of travelling by car or getting public transport. You could try to make getting outside part of your daily routine, whether it is riding a bike or sitting in a garden or park while you listen to music.

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.