

Newsletter 21.9.17

Introduction

It has been another busy week at Exeter House – the students are now beginning to settle into their new classes and it has been an absolute pleasure to see the positive engagement, interaction and learning that is already going on. We are in the process of building a full list of key dates, activities and events that will be going on at the school over the next year (the initial dates that have been confirmed at this time are given at the bottom of this newsletter) as events are confirmed we will be adding to and updating this list to help you be aware and plan for events that are taking place. We hope that this will be useful.

Vocational Centre

We are now into the second full week since the opening of our new vocational centre in town. This has been a great new initiative and something that both pupils and staff at the school are very proud of. To celebrate the opening and the new opportunities this brings to the school there is an open day for parents of the students who attend, taking place on Thursday 28th September between 1.30 and 2.30pm. Further details about this event will follow soon.

SEAL themes

Each seasonal term the school has a core theme supporting the work it does for pupils on personal, social and emotional education. This term the theme is new beginnings where we look at issues like: belonging, self-awareness, managing feelings, understanding the feelings of others, social skills, making choices and understanding rights and responsibilities.

School Photographs

Please be aware that there are individual photographs taking place for pupils on Tuesday 26th September.

Story Sharing

This term some classes will be continuing the good work started last year with the Open Story Tellers. This project proved to be successful with our students - helping to develop their awareness of personal narrative, their communication skills and their self-esteem.

The classes using 'story sharing' will send home a sheet each week for you to fill in with your child. Please write about whatever your child has particularly enjoyed that week and feel free to include photographs, props, anything!

We look forward to hearing your child's stories!

Parental support and communication

We are setting up a series of parental support networks for parents or carers of children with Special Educational Needs. We are all too aware at the school that this presents some difficulties that other parents may not have to deal with and, therefore, would like to

provide an opportunity for further information, sign-post for support and the chance for parents and carers to meet up share experiences and begin to develop their own networks. We are also aware that many of our parents do not live close to school – therefore we are going to set up these groups in hubs run by our family support worker, but run in a way to support you and your needs – one at the school, one in Tidworth (at the Ashdown Centre) and one in Amesbury (Wyndham Hall). We hope that these will be really positive and beneficial – but in order for them to work we need to get people there so please come along! The first meetings will be as follows:

- Monday 25th September, between 10.30 and 11.30, at Exeter House – meet the Head Teacher
- Monday 2nd October, between 10.30 and 11.30, at the Ashdown Centre, Tidworth
- Monday 9th October, between 10.30 and 11.30, at Wyndham Hall, Amesbury
- Monday 30th October, between 10.30 and 11.30, at Exeter House
- Monday 6th November, between 10.30 and 11.30, at the Ashdown Centre, Tidworth
- Monday 13th November, between 10.30 and 11.30, at Wyndham Hall, Amesbury

George, our family support worker has sent out a flyer out with further details.

New parent event - reminder

This Thursday 21st September (tonight) from 6.30 – 8.00pm we are holding an event for new parents at the school. The aim of this meeting is for you to meet the Senior Leadership Team, Family Support Worker, Parent Teacher Association members and get the chance to meet other new parents. If you are a new parent to the school it will be great to see you there.

Key dates

- **Monday 25th September** 10.30-11.30 – meet the head teacher
- **Tuesday 26th September** – school photographs – all pupils
- **Thursday 28th September** 1.30-2.30pm – Vocational open day for parents and governors
- **Monday 2nd October**, 10.30 and 11.30, Parent SEN network, at the Ashdown Centre, Tidworth
- **Monday 9th October**, 10.30 and 11.30, Parent SEN network ,at Wyndham Hall, Amesbury
- **Friday 13th October** – last day of term
- **Monday 30th October** – school re-starts
- **Monday 30th October** – flu vaccinations
- **Monday 30th October**, 10.30 and 11.30, Parent SEN network, at Exeter House
- **Monday 6th November**, 10.30 and 11.30 - Parent SEN network, at the Ashdown Centre, Tidworth
- **Monday 13th November**, 10.30 and 11.30 - Parent SEN network, at Wyndham Hall, Amesbury