



Newsletter

October 2021

Springhallow POST 16
Pathways to adulthood

<p>Message from Matthew</p> 	<p>Dear school community,</p> <p>I am writing this newsletter as we approach the end of the first half term. As always, at this time of the year, it has been great to see how all the new pupils have settled into life at Springhallow and the existing pupils have settled into their new classes. It has been particularly great to see how well our Year 11 cohort have transitioned to our Post 16 site and how they are integrating successfully with the students and staff over there.</p> <p>Despite the challenges that COVID continues to bring, the school community has really pulled together and I have continued to be impressed with the staff team's dedication to the children and young adults they support.</p>
<p>Message from Eddie McCudden</p> 	<p>Dear students,</p> <p>What a joy it is to be back at School and Post 16 and having the opportunity to write to you again. In my message in July, I reflected upon the difficult year we have had and the planning for the September return. I, and all the Governing Body, have been so impressed with the way in which the whole school has pulled together to make Springhallow a safe place to work and continue your education this year.</p> <p>It been a great time for me also. At the Full Governing Body last month, I was re-elected as your Chair of Governors and Ian and as your Vice Chair, which is a great honour for me and my family.</p> <p>I also visited the school and Post 16 and had the opportunity to meet some of the new pupils, staff and students joining us and moving to Post 16. I also had some to talk to you and had some very interesting conversations with you and as promised, brought the points raised to the full Governing Body meeting for discussion within the various Committees and at School Council.</p> <p>Some of you were surprised that we, as Governors, have regular training sessions so we can do our jobs to the best of our abilities and that education and training is a lifelong experience.</p> <p>We are so lucky to have wonderful and devoted teaching staff across both sites and that your safety and education is their top priority.</p> <p>I also attended the Post 16 BBQ and had the opportunity to meet some of our sponsors and parents and thank them for all their support. I was also proud of the great work you have done in the garden and bought some of the produce you grew, the chives and carrots were delicious.</p> <p>Finally, I look forward to working with Matthew over the next year in ensuring we keep up the good work we have achieved over the past year and seeing you thrive at Springhallow and Post 16.</p>
<p>Friends of Springhallow</p>	<p>WE NEED YOUR HELP...</p> <p>It is time to relaunch Friends of Springhallow (our school's PTA) to help bring the school community together and work towards some fundraising projects for the children and young adults that attend the school. We would like to plan a Christmas Get Together and need parent volunteers to make this happen. If you are able to help (in any way) we have arranged for an initial planning meeting at the SpringCafe at school or online on Thursday 4th November from 9.30am. https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NDI1MGNiZDYtZWZlMy00NwY2LWl4NzgtY2U0ZjNkMzhiZjdI%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2257b06137-4348-4045-9386-0f793ea9fb39%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%2215f3dfc2-0606-4581-a3a7-ed3d1c1c1bd5%22%7d</p>

<p>Student Council</p>	<p>A new Student Council have been elected!</p> <p>The student council worked hard over the past academic year and made some positive changes to the school. We are looking forward to the newly elected members to continue this hard work, meeting on a monthly basis with Matthew and Brigitte (School Governor) to discuss issues and identify solutions.</p> <p>The student council reps are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augustus (Birch) and Nicholas (Elm) - Primary Representatives • Zuhaib (Eagle) • Franek (Osprey) • Saif (Swan) • Lincoln (Magpie) • Jack (Kestrel) • Terry (Raven) • Billy, Jacob, Harveen and Jayden (Post 16 Representatives)
<p>Staffing news</p>	<p>At the end of this half term, we are saying goodbye to Cath (teacher responsible for horticulture) and Celia (one of our TAs). Both Cath and Celia are relocating away from London and we are sad to see them go.</p> <p>We have been successful in appointing Hugh Lovric as class teacher. Hugh is currently working at Clarendon Special School and will join the teaching staff from January.</p>
<p>Home/School Agreement</p>	<p>As a school, we pride ourselves with our relationships with parents. To support this, we have the Home/School Agreement which is reviewed every year to help establish guidelines for what to expect for all - Springhallow Home School Agreement.</p>
<p>Ealing SEND Hub</p>	<p>This year sees Springhallow start working alongside the other Ealing Special Schools on an exciting project with Business Education Events (BEE) developing an Ealing SEND Hub with a focus on careers and developing essential life skills. The project aims to maximise the curriculum opportunities for our pupils over three years through a successful funding bid from the John Lyons Charity. For more information, please follow link Ealing SEND Hub</p>
<p>Research</p>	<p>Springhallow are looking forward to continuing our research work this year.</p> <p>We are developing our support for students' mental health and well-being by applying the latest research into emotional regulation, physical activity and mental well-being.</p> <p>During this term we will be working with University College London researching how movement and physical activity can have a beneficial effect on mental health, well-being, communication and learning.</p> <p>We are continuing to share good autism practice with colleagues in school and with other schools across London - We are part of the Pan London Autism Schools Network which helps us to collaborate with other PLASN schools</p> <p>Last school year we developed our film making skills as adults and pupils working together to participate in A Creative Arts Projects and pupil engagement. Research has shown that Using film in literacy has a positive impact on pupil engagement. We found that our students were highly motivated by the film project and we produced a film which showcased all of the new skills we had learned.</p> <p>We will be using film to enhance literacy and creative learning in the future.</p> <p>We are collaborating, once again, with Flute Theatre Company who create wonderful interactive Shakespeare performances for learners with Autism. This company will work with us to support communication through the drama activities that they create.</p> <p>Our teachers will collect data about all of these projects and our Research Board will meet to evaluate any benefits and ideas for improving our practice.</p> <p>We will publish Research Board Meeting dates soon and will update everyone on our findings in our Website Newsletter each term.</p>

Unwell children

Due to the cold weather, lots of children are getting colds and flu and are feeling generally unwell. Please be mindful that if your child has a heavy cold or flu (coughing, sneezing, very snotty, high temperatures, generally feeling unwell) that germs spread very easily and quickly across the school, so it is important that you keep your child away from school until he/she has fully recovered and is no longer infectious. We know the children love coming to school but sometimes children return to school too soon. They often need more than one day to recover.

If they are unwell, they are unable to learn and should be kept at home. If they come back to school before they are fully recovered, it is unlikely that they can cope with the pressures and demands of the school day.

If you have to give your child medicine before school, this probably indicates that they are unwell and should remain at home. It is very likely that someone from the class will contact you to ask you to collect them from school.

Therapy Support – Skill of the month

Meal times

1. Encourage communication by offering choices, e.g., Hold up two options and ask “do you want an Orange or a Banana? - pause and give your child time to decide.
2. Make sure the child is sitting on a table and chair which is the correct height, if they are not comfortable, they will not focus within the task, see diagram.
3. Use cutlery that is the correct size for them, use ones that are of different colours and characters. This will motivate them to engage.
4. Allow exposure to new food textures either through play e.g., use broccoli as trees, flour as snow and cereal for pouring activities and/or visually on the table (if they acknowledge it then this is a great step 😊). Keep this consistent, new textures each day!
5. Give small portions at a time and provide positive praise for when they successfully finish their food. This will assist their communication skills as they will be encouraged to ask for more.



Upcoming Dates New/altered dates in red	AUTUMN TERM 2021	
	October	
	WC 25/10/21	Half Term
	November	
	1/11/21	INSET – School closed to pupils
	4/11/21	Diwali/Deepawali celebrations – <i>pupils and staff can come to School/college in traditional clothing if they wish!</i>
	December	
	17/12/21	End of term 1.30pm (Christmas Holidays)
	SPRING TERM 2022	
	January	
Tue 4/1/22	First day of Spring term	

Queen’s Bank Holiday – Please note, as the additional bank holiday next year falls within the May half term, the school and college will be closed to staff and pupils on **Friday 29th April 2022.**