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Welcome to the Inscape House School newsletter!

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to have returned from maternity leave into an action-packed half-term. It has been wonderful to see how much the students have developed and grown over the year that I have been off, and I am really looking forward to getting to know our new students.

We have had numerous activities going on this half-term including: our biggest ever school trip, with over 80 students visiting Chester Zoo last month; an anti-bullying play; a talk about knife crime from the St Giles Trust, a talk from Greater Manchester Fire Service as well as a coffee morning and drop-in session for Children in Need.

Staff training on current practice remains a high priority for us. In November, the Occupational Therapy team delivered a refresher training session on Sensory Processing which was well-received by staff. The SaLT team have also continued the AAC (Augmentative and Alternative Communication) monthly focus from October into November with – “See me, see my AAC”.

We are continuing to work closely with New Horizon Special School in Ghana. We will be sharing some highlights of our Christmas Carol Service with them to watch during their Christmas celebration event, and they will also send us some

highlights from this event to share with our students.

Excitingly, the Cats Protection Charity visited us at the end of October to discuss the possibility of the school having Cat pods. If we proceed, we will be the first school in the UK to have cat pods onsite and the first to be working with a cat fostering/adoption service...watch this space for further details in the new year.

In January we will be holding a Parent Partnership Breakfast at 9:30am on Monday 22nd January, with a focus on Positive Behaviour Support and a Problem-Solving Question and Answer session for families to ask advice and guidance on how to support behaviour at home. If you would like to attend, please fill out the form to RSVP by Friday 12th January

<https://forms.office.com/e/qWWWNaSA4u>

Parent Partnership Breakfast
Monday 22nd Jan 9:30 - 11:30am



We say goodbye to the following staff and wish them well for the future:

- Ian Muir, a lunchtime assistant who is retiring after 20 years' service with the Together Trust!
- Luisa Lobina, Science Lead, who is leaving to pursue a different career.
- Rachel Honan, Teacher, who is returning home to Northern Ireland
- Helen Hobart, Teacher, who has secured a post in another school.

We wish to congratulate:

- Marcell Solano on becoming an Associate Teacher
- Gillian Rule on being appointed as our new Lead Science Teacher

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas break with your families and we look forward to welcoming students back to school on Tuesday 9th January 2024.

With best wishes

Hannah Stollar,

An update from Animal Assisted Intervention (AAI)

More new additions

We recently purchased a bearded dragon as a new addition to the AAI provision. Our pupils have enjoyed meeting the lizard and were tasked with naming him. The winning vote by 11 votes was Stitch!! Stitch has explored his new home, been sunbathing under his new basking light and is very fond of his deck chair which he sits on when meeting the new students in their sessions.

We'd like to welcome Stitch to our growing department starting the exciting journey AAI has to offer, helping students remove the barriers they face. This isn't the end of new animal species arriving for AAI, as we are working hard behind the scenes to set up our biggest venture yet for AAI so watch this space!!!





Animals go bump at Inscape!

Halloween was definitely celebrated in the AAI room with the guinea pigs and tortoises decorating their hutch and tortoise table, and with stitch managing to guard the skeleton head that was in his vivarium.

The students made Pumpkin Peppers for the guinea pigs to munch through and made the resources for the tortoises to dress up as bats which helped our students develop their fine motor skills. We well and truly made spookiness happen in AAI room!





A wild day out

On Tuesday 14th November we took 82 students and 83 staff to Chester Zoo to see over 500 species that the zoo has to offer. The hugely successful trip has encouraged our students to step outside their comfort zone and explore places that had previously been a barrier for them. From the moment we entered the gate we explored the amazing animals from elephants to flamingos and learnt about ways to protect them.

We covered over 10,000 steps, toured 128 acres and saw the 35,000 animals that the zoo had to offer. We certainly had a wild day out with Chester Zoo, empowering our young people and sparking a passion for saving species!

We would like to thank Chester Zoo for being so accommodating to our young people and Danielle (our AAI practitioner) for organising such a fantastic opportunity for our young people.



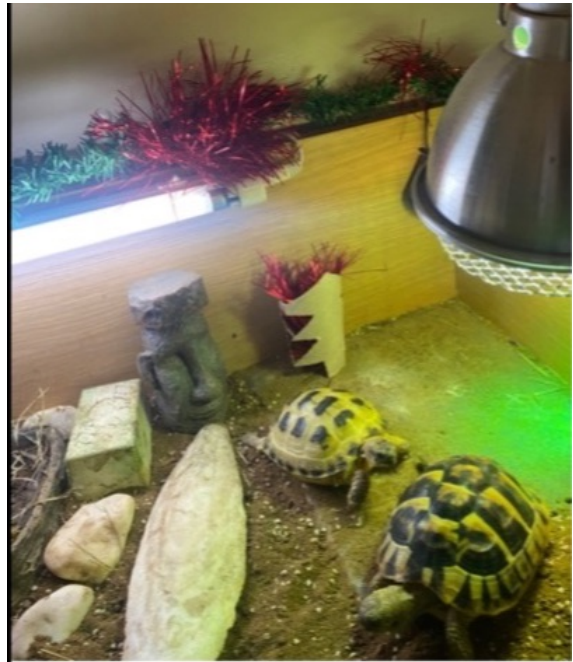


Deck the halls with Fur and PAWS this Christmas

The Christmas festivities were in full swing in the AAI department with the animals and students joining in activities to spread the Christmas spirit. We decorated the PAWs & AAI rooms turning them into Santa's little workshop with the help of the guinea pig elves.

Students helped improve their fine motor skills by creating a cardboard Christmas tree to help the guinea pigs' teeth. They also made a personalised edible wreath made from sprouts, tomatoes and spinach for the tortoises to munch on and then created crinkle baubles for Stitch, the bearded dragon to help get him in the Christmas spirit.

No animal gets left behind at Christmas which includes our support dogs. Benji showcased his jumper collection and Charlie decided to dress himself as a Christmas tree for the occasion on the way to meet the students where he encouraged them to read Christmas stories to them while improving reading levels.



News stories

Taekwondo and Taekwondo Grand Prix

This term a group of students took part in a Taekwondo session with British Taekwondo. They practiced their kicking and punching skills with Jason the Taekwondo coach. It was a warmup for students to attend the Taekwondo Grand Prix at the Etihad Campus a few weeks later!

Students had the opportunity to watch professional Paralympians from across the world in action, competing for their place at the 2024 Paralympics. They also learnt about the history of the Paralympics, as well as taking part in a Taekwondo session on the mats.

It was a great day out for students and staff!



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

A group of Post 16 students were invited to an inclusive sports day at The Cliff, hosted by the Manchester United Foundation.

The students took part in a variety of fun activities, including hockey, taekwondo, boxing, golf, cricket and blind golf.

They had a great day out and learnt lots of new skills!



Total Ninja

As part of a Christmas reward for their hard work, L3 got invited to Total Ninja for their Christmas Party celebration, provided by the Manchester United Foundation.

They spent lots of time bouncing around the course and having a great time!

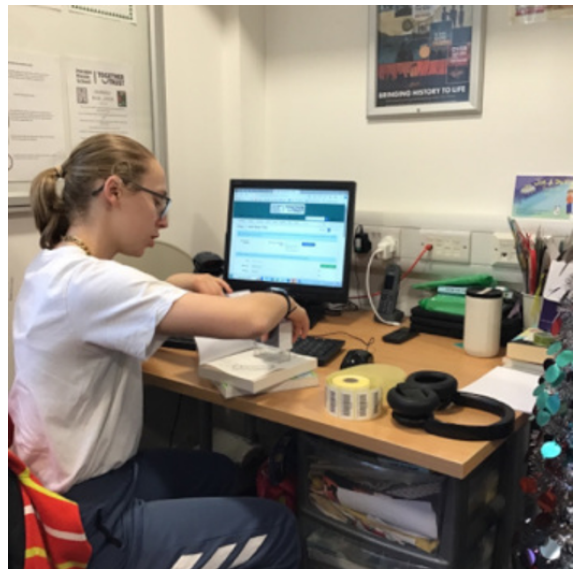
It was great to see them smiling away and the reward was thoroughly deserved.

Library news

The students have submitted some fabulous entries for our annual Christmas Elf story writing competition. Hannah will have a very tough decision to make when choosing our winners on the 22nd! The students have written some fabulously creative stories, with one student opting to write a play!

Our pupil librarians have done a great job helping with the selection, ordering, and assigning of new books ready to be distributed to classes for our topic book packs to support the students' learning throughout the curriculum when we return.

They have also decorated our library to spread some Christmas cheer and encourage some festive reading!





Amazing art

One of our students has created this excellent costume, made using cardboard, felt and other things found around school.

It took weeks to make and has been their toughest build to date.



Running for the Together Trust

Eugene Kellegher, husband of Deputy Head Carla, is running the London Marathon on behalf of Inscape. **Here is his story of why he is doing it:**

"Hi, I'm Eugene and I have been lucky enough to secure a charity place on the London Marathon through the Together Trust. I'm running for Inscape House and to raise awareness of Autism as a hidden disability.

A few months ago we had an Autism diagnosis for our 7 year old son. It never changed our lives, he's still our boy, but it did raise my awareness of the lack of knowledge and understanding people have.

If you can't see it and it's not obvious then how can it be real?

The barriers and challenges are very real for our son. He has a great sense of humour, he is funny, the life and sole of a party and articulate! He has a heightened sense of touch, sound and smell and a love and need for movement. Amazing qualities that when connected together in the right environment can be supercharged! When they clash can be explosive!

We navigate through life with our 2 daughters and a neurotic Border Collie, hoping to instil and build a little bit of knowledge, understanding, acceptance and adjustments from those around us. Not always getting it right.

It's been a 3 year battle to finally move our son from an environment where he has experienced school based trauma. Square peg, round hole...sound familiar? It's never going to happen!

After many months of toing and frowning we finally managed to move him into a smaller school that has unconditional positive regard.

*He now experiences *the best days of his life*, *its fun all the time*. A school that clearly nurtures neurodiversity in all its glorious colours.*

My wife works at Inscape and it was their encouragement, advice, expertise and support that enabled us to come as far as we have.

The staff at Inscape do an amazing job to break down barriers for all the young people. Always going above and beyond. As a community the school provides a listening ear, promotes self-advocacy and breaks down barriers to learning. The experiences of the students and staff are valued.

Together, we need to break down stereotypes and challenge misconceptions about what autistic people can and can't do. This begins with greater understanding and awareness of what autism is, and Inscape do this seamlessly.

I run for all children with a diagnosis of autism, for those children who don't 'look autistic', who you 'can't tell', or you 'wouldn't know' and I say to those around open your eyes, make a little change adjust your perception to the world and watch the light begin to shine through....."

Read more and give

National star survey

We want to hear your thoughts about how you feel about your child preparing to leave education.

The Together Trust have created two surveys with charity National Star to gather feedback from you (and your child) which we will then share with the government to try and improve the way families are supported throughout this time of transition.

The parent and carer survey can be accessed here: [Fill in the survey](#)

Our student survey is designed to be user-friendly, allowing responses in both written and verbal formats. You can access it here: [Fill in the survey](#)

Both surveys will close on the 16th of February 2023. If you have any questions please email lucy.croxtton@togethertrust.org.uk

What comes after education?



If your child has a disability and has left or is about to leave education, then we want to hear about your experience.



We know how much you value the Together Trust and your personal connection to Inscape House School. Here are a couple of ways you could support us:



Play our 50:50 Lottery

Be in with a chance of winning over £100 each month!



Give a monthly gift

Help us to plan for the future by setting up a monthly donation. We

Of what's raised, 50% is split between one winner and four runners up and 50% helps us support our vital services.

[Play our charity lottery.](#)

rely heavily on donations to ensure that our services grow, adapt and increase to support the ever-changing needs of the people we support. No matter what size your monthly donation, it will make a huge difference to the people we support.

[Set up a monthly gift](#)



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