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Welcome to the Inscape newsletter!

As the Spring Term draws to a close, I am writing to express my thanks and gratitude to all of our parents, carers and students. This last term has been action-packed, and fun filled. We have had a visit from a RAF flight lieutenant, trips to Poole Cavern, Aerozone and Quarry Bank Mill. Our Animal Assisted Intervention programme is now well underway; we have two guinea pigs and a baby tortoise. Watch this space for further additions to our AAI programme...

Our new students who started with us in September have settled in well and we are underway preparing for our September admissions to school.

We had two students sit GCSEs at the November exam series and numerous Post 16 students complete Functional Skills examinations. The students in question put in a great deal of effort and all students passed! One student achieved a Grade 9 in her Geography GCSE and another student achieved Grade 5 GCSEs in both his Maths and English and a Grade 3 in his Science GCSE. We could not be prouder.

We continue to make improvements to our school; our forest school area is now being used by students and we have exciting designs for three new multi-sensory light rooms which will be installed over the Summer Holidays. Additionally, our School Council (made up of students) raised that they thought that some of the toilets needed modernising. This work is also booked in for the Summer Holidays.

Pleasingly, we have been able to hold Parents' Evenings face to face now that the Government restrictions have lifted. Our therapists put on a fantastic workshop in the hall for parents to ask questions and explore some of the strategies that are used with our young people.

I am delighted to inform you that we achieved Investor in Customers Gold Award, improving our score in 2019 from 7.89 to 8.51 out of 10. Thank you to those of you who completed the survey back in October. You more than anyone, support your children, influence their learning and decisions. We would very much appreciate you taking a short amount of time to complete [Ofsted's Parent View Questionnaire](#) this will enable us to further reflect on current practice and identify areas for improvement and development.

We look forward to welcoming your child back on Tuesday 19th April 2022. Please remember that we also have an additional Bank Holiday in lieu of the fact that the Queen's Jubilee falls in the school holidays. This means that school will be closed on Friday 29th April 2022 to all students. (This date has been changed from Monday 6th June).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy Easter.



Hannah Stollar, Interim Head of School



News stories

Animal magic at Inscape

Animal-assisted Intervention (AAI) can improve young people's mental, physical, social and emotional functioning. It is more than simply spending time with an animal, animal-assisted intervention (AAI) involves specific therapeutic goals, strategies and outcomes measures. Therapeutic experiences can include walking, brushing, petting and caring for an animal, as well as

processing the experience of trying to achieve a given task.

Learners have weekly sessions with our school guinea pigs (Pandora and Patch), our tortoise (Simba) and Riley the dog. AAI Practitioner (Danielle) leads the programme, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the animals while delivering enriching AAI sessions to support students' development.

Logan (14) who is accessing 'Engagement' AAI session once a week said, it makes me feel much better just by being around animals. It improves my mood so much. [These sessions] are probably the best thing that's happened to me in the last couple of months."

Danielle also does wellbeing daily 'check in's' with students. This really benefits them being around the animal's and makes them feel 'calm and relaxed'. They are all making such fantastic progress to help their self-regulate throughout the remaining of the school day.

The Animal magic doesn't stop there, as many of our students struggle with understanding their emotions. One of our students only knew sad and happy but through working with the animals, he has been able to understand and talk about more complex emotions, such as confusion and anxiety. It really does help them in the areas where they need additional support", explains Danielle.

"The AAI sessions also help students progress in other subjects. For example, counting and weighing food can make Maths real to students and that makes it easier for them to engage with it".

Finally, Inscapes animals are helping a number of students as they work towards a qualification in Animal care which is part of their timetable at Inscape. It certainly is ... The Animals sprinkling their magic on our Inscape students!



Solidarity with Ukraine

Inscape came together on 8th March to show solidarity and support for the people suffering in Ukraine.

Staff and students wore yellow and blue and donated money to the appeal. Students also spent time in class writing messages and poems of support to Ukraine.

These have been sent to a local children's newspaper for publication.



An update from Science - STEM

Last term students were tasked with creating a rocket that was filled with soda and mentos – linking this to our previous topic of Forces and moving into our next chemistry topic of Chemical Reactions.

We wanted to see how bubbles and soda react together to quickly shoot out of the bottle. The carbon dioxide molecules attach to the surfaces of the Mentos and make a lot of bubbles that rise to the surface and push the soda out in a big whoosh!

This term with Easter as the theme, students have been asked to construct a parachute that will deliver an egg safely to the ground when dropped. Students should only use familiar household items like plastic bags and string. The parachutes will be tested and dropped from a height at Lunchtime on Friday 1st April. We're sure the parachutes will be 'egg'cellent!!

We'd like to thank all the participants, who shall be rewarded at the end of this term.



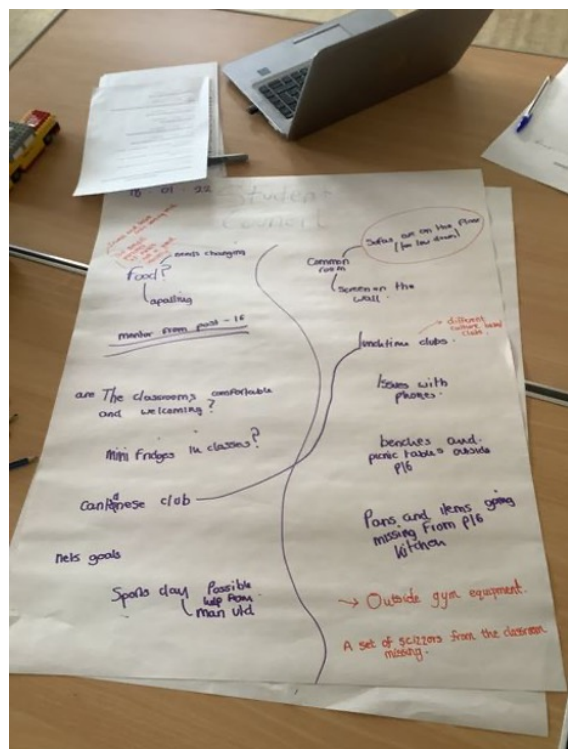
Student council

Inscape Student Council is going from strength to strength!

We have met twice now and have already made some significant changes to make Inscape a better place for everyone. We have:

- got school to agree to replace ALL student toilets and build better facilities
- planned a whole school sports day
- put together a timetable of lunchtime clubs for students
- arranged for each classroom to have recycling bins
- organised a whole school student welfare survey

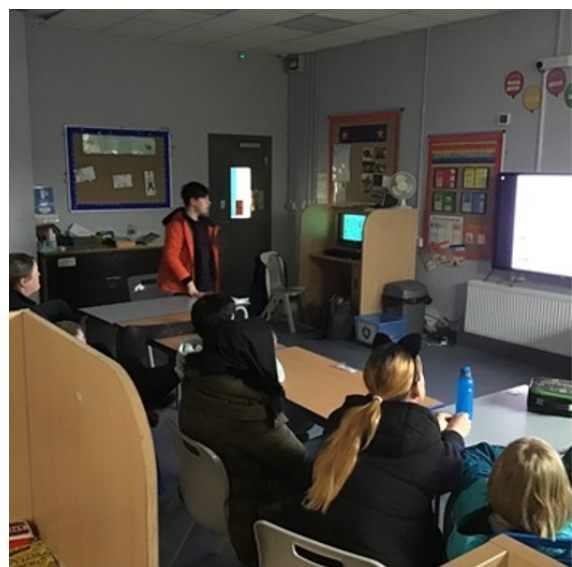
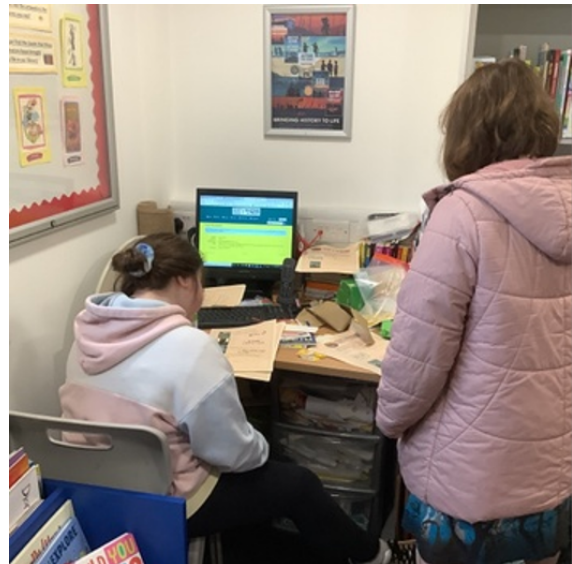
We are very proud that our students have a VOICE that is heard!



World book day celebrations

We have had a wonderful time in the library this term. We decided that we couldn't fit our World Book Day celebrations into a day, so we celebrated throughout the week: all students were gifted a selection of World Book Day books; we ran our first Family Book Quiz (well done to the Brookes family!); we enjoyed virtual author visits given by Sarah Oliver; staff and students dressed up as their favourite literary characters-our very own Spider Man came to work in the library on World Book Day (well done Ethan)!

We held a book review bookmark competition during World Book Week. Students were invited to write a book review on a bookmark or decorate the bookmark with how a book of their choice makes them feel. The idea being that the bookmarks are then left in the corresponding book for students to find in the library to discover what their peers have enjoyed reading! This was so successful that we are going to continue with this; there will be a prize for the student that has submitted the most bookmarks at the end of each month.



Middle school food tech

In Middle School this term we have been learning about China.

We have made Chinese fortune cakes, Chinese sponge cake, chicken noodle stir fry & egg rice.

It was all delicious!



LGBT+ History Month at Inscape

Every February, the UK comes together to celebrate the history of the LGBT+ community. Thanks to the LGBT+ student/staff-led group at Inscape, Proud Together, our learners, colleagues, parents and carers were invited to enjoy a morning of exciting and educational activities around LGBT+ themes on 23rd February.

Visitors had the opportunity to support the genderbread biscuit sale, get a gender pronoun badge, take a look at the library stall and make a personal bookmark, play LGBT+ themed games, participate in an LGBT+ quiz made by one of the students or simply have a chat with our students and colleagues over a cup of tea.

Stéphane Maitrejean, Senior Teacher, Inscape House School, shares:

"I am really pleased with how the event turned out and the feedback we received from staff and students. I cannot believe we raised £32 for the Proud Trust, and I am looking forward to taking some students to Manchester to hand the money to the charity. It seems that everyone had fun, and it was amazing to see students from all pathways together. I particularly enjoyed chatting to and playing "Guess Who" with the parents who attended."

Well done to everyone who got involved and our fantastic colleagues for being committed to campaigning for equality, inclusivity and diversity.



Visit from the RAF

Vicki – Flight Lieutenant with the Royal Air Force provided the pupils with a day of fun, games and activities talking about the life of a pilot with the RAF. The pupils really enjoyed this day and participated in all the activities, especially dressing up as pilots and exploring the different equipment that they use when flying.

A big thank you for Vicki for supporting this careers day.



Congratulations to Joshua

A big congratulations to Joshua who has completed his induction at Booths in Hale and has started his work experience placement. How smart and confident does Josh look? Thank you to Becky, Joshua's mum for using her contacts and securing this placement. If you have any contacts and ideas how you can support our invaluable work experience placements, please email Marie Young – marie.young@togethertrust.org.uk. Huge thanks to Aga and the team at Booths, who are so passionate about supporting neurodiversity within their workforce.

Our next Careers Event is our STEAM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) is on Thursday 28th April. If you or any of your contacts have careers that link to the above and would like to support this event, please let us know. We need some more guest speakers to make this day fun and engaging for our pupils.



Careers in the curriculum

This week we have looked at careers in the curriculum and linked core subjects such as maths, English and science to jobs. A big thank you to all the pupils who participated in this and the creative ideas of input from staff. The idea behind this week is to raise students' awareness of the subjects they learn in school and how these link to jobs and the future.

We also had an Examiner visit who inspected the Post 16 kitchen and the inCafe. He used the food standards questionnaire to verify if the inCafe and the post 16 kitchen meet the standard hygiene requirements.



Red Nose Day

We would like to thank everyone who came to buy a cake today or sent in money for cakes, we raised £54 for Comic Relief Red Nose Appeal.

Our reading and AAI dog Riley joined the fun on Friday for Comic Relief by decorating her room with red noses!

Students had lots of fun in their AAI sessions and helped Riley learn new tricks whilst developing their own fine motor skills and reading knowledge.



U1 trip to the Quarry

On February 11th this year, staff and students of Inscape school class U1 took a trip to Quarry Bank Mill. A great time was had by all. A trip around the working museum which used to be a cotton mill in the forefront of the industrial revolution was the starting point.

Of particular interest were the Spinning Jenny and working looms which were operated by mill staff dressed in the garb of the day, and the working models of the huge water wheel which was used to generate the power the looms. This was followed by watching the actual wheel turn, fascinating the students and staff alike.

An extensive walk through the surrounding woods, and a chance for our keen ornithologists to spot several rare birds in and around the lake followed, with a chance to enjoy the clear spring sky. A picnic lunch and a visit to purchase some interesting souvenirs from the craft shop rounded off a great day.



Join Together Festival is back!

Join Together Festival, the Together Trust's very own fully accessible festival is happening on Saturday 2nd July, hosting activities, lots of different stalls and fun for the whole family! How would you like to win the chance to become a sponsor?

Enter the Sponsorship Raffle by clicking the button below to be in the running! Tickets cost just £30 and every business that enters will be mentioned in the festival programme.

[Enter the raffle](#)

Book a stall at the festival!

Bookings have now opened for businesses and individuals to book to have a stall at the festival. Book a stall at the festival and support our life changing services across Greater Manchester.

Complete the form by clicking the link below to express your interest in having a stall at the festival!



[Register your stall](#)



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