



**CALTHORPE
ACADEMY**
Skills for the life we want



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Spring 2022

Head Teachers Message

Dear parents/carers,

The start of 2022 has been very challenging for us at Calthorpe Academy due to the number of staff and learners' absences related to covid 19. We took all the necessary measures to manage the situation to the best of our ability with the support of the UK Health Security Agency (previously Public Health England).

After the February half term, the situation greatly improved and we have seen learners and staff making exceptional progress. We are very excited about what we can achieve during the summer term with the support of our parents and carers.

On the 16th of May, we have parents' consultation week and it will be an opportunity to celebrate our learners' achievements. This will also give parents the opportunity to feedback to us in order to improve our provision.

As you know we have been using our school app to communicate with our parents and if you haven't got our app yet we highly recommend that you download it, follow this link for instructions on how to install and set up the app: <https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/szapp>.

Our website is also a good source of information and our news page gives you weekly updates on what's happening in school. We have recently updated and improved our curriculum offer and you will find details of what our learners are exposed to under *documents and policies*, *curriculum overview 2022*.

I would like to wish all learners and staff a restful Easter holiday and I am looking forward to seeing you all in the summer term.

Kind Regards,



Mounir Meghalsi

Head Teacher

Principal

Capable Environments

This year as part of our Positive Behaviour Support Strategy we have introduced "Capable Environment Expectations" for each of our pathways.



This is an evidence-based approach and looks at how the quality of life can be improved and therefore behaviour reduced by looking at the social and physical environment.

As part of our preventative level of support, we use capable environments to detail the expectations for each pathway so that everyone understands what should be in place for all of our learners at all times.

This includes how we communicate with our learners, how we make sure the environment is structured and predictable and how we meet their physical, sensory and emotional needs.

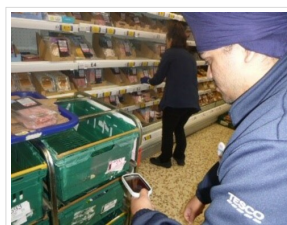
Since implementing this strategy, we have observed a better response from our learners in terms of behaviour as well as feedback from staff on the positive impact on teaching and learning.



Gemma Nicholls

Assistant Head Teacher

School News



Andrew Blakeley
Assistant Head Teacher

Post 16 School News

Transition/Careers Spring 2022

This term, we hosted and organised our annual Pathway and Outcomes Event. The event was designed to support our year 9 to 13 learners, parents and carers to gain information, advice and guidance and to explore future destinations as well as support opportunities from other agencies. Over 20 external agencies attended which included post 16 and 19 destinations but also representatives from Health, Local Authority Transition team, Adult Social Care, SENDIASS, Parent Link and Voluntary Sector Organisations.

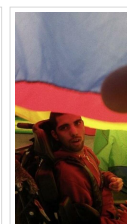


The transition team have been equipping our pre 16 and post 16 learners with work experiences and encounters. The learners have amazed us with their ability to adjust and cope with change, communicate in a variety of new environments, use knowledge learnt by demonstrating their functional skills and develop their understanding of the world of work. As a result, we have managed to secure additional work placements and encounters with Tesco Yardley, Willmott Dixon and HS2!

Reading Celebrations

During the Spring term, we have had celebrations that aim to further promote the love of reading and storytelling, including National Storytelling Week and World Book Day! Learners from all pathways enjoyed taking part in a range of storytelling activities, dressing up as their favourite book characters and exploring reading in many forms.

For National Storytelling Week, classes across the school explored storytelling through sensory story boxes, non-verbal and verbal drama workshops, and comic book art. Some classes also visited Birmingham's Central Library to experience the range of children's books on offer there.



World Book Day was a great success too, with classes all over the school taking part in lots of activities all linked to celebrating books and reading. Activities included Makaton book quizzes, World Book Day rap songs (MC Grammar), scavenger hunts, story quizzes, storytimes and fancy dress. Prizes were given for winning class groups and individual prizes for best-dressed staff members and learners. Each pathway had a different focus for their fancy dress and spent time in classes making props and costumes ready for the event, ensuring all learners were included in the celebration. Some classes took the opportunity to spend their World Book Day tokens at the shop, whilst others used theirs to buy books for their class to explore in school during Reading for Pleasure sessions.

Lots of fun was had by all and the enjoyment of reading was evident in every class.



Lara Latham

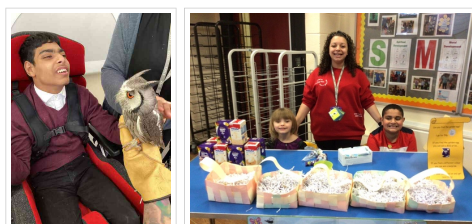
Quality of Education Co-ordinator

School News

Red Nose Day 2022

Red Nose Day this year was a fantastic celebration for all, with learners getting involved in a wide range of activities and purchasing items, all in aid of worthy causes.

Archery, inflatables and the animal man were available and classes were allocated slots to participate in these enrichment activities throughout the day.



Learning for life classes had worked within 'Choices' sessions to design and create purchasable experiences or objects for their class stall that could then be sold to raise money for charity. Learners from across the academy worked on developing and generalising curriculum key skills from all three pathways, including exchanging money, exercising motor skills, communicating and working within a team, and increasing an understanding of the natural world and of others.

All learners had a great day and managed to raise over £1,100!



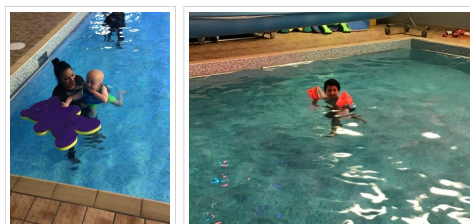
Tom Willott

Extended Leader for Learning for Life

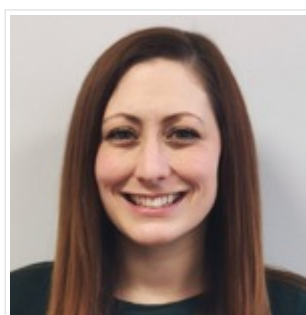
School News

Belgravia Spring 2022

Over the Autumn and Spring Terms, our Foundations for Life Belgravia School learners and staff have had great fun working on developing community participation and independence skills, through weekly visits to access swimming sessions at our Calthorpe Academy main site. Learners have really enjoyed these swimming sessions.



It has been wonderful to reflect back on the progress of learners across all of our Belgravia classes. These swimming sessions have allowed for big achievements across our Foundations for Life Curriculum within transitions, dressing, interaction and relationships and much more.



Laura Lee

Belgravia School Head of Centre

Belgravia School News

Family support Spring 2022

We have had overwhelming contact from parents requesting support for making the referral for the House Hold Fund, we have had around 40 successful referrals. We would like you to know that the House Hold Fund is now closed however if you are struggling and require further support you can refer yourself using the connect form from Birmingham Children's Partnership. They connect and work together to support families, continuing to build relationships and supporting a range of needs of all family members. If you require support in filling in the form please feel free to contact us.

https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50224/birmingham_children_s_partnership/2156/birmingham_children_s_partnership_-_resources

Our first face to face workshop of the term was the Sensory workshop delivered by Aimee Prentice (Extended Leader - Engagement for Life), she emphasised the importance of communication and interaction in the engagement needs of learners. With a focus on reading for pleasure, Aimee and her team shared top tips and provided a sensory story bag of resources to support home learning. Thank you to everyone that attended the session.

Here are some amazing reviews from parents who attended the session:

"It was a good idea and good information"

"It was a lovely session"

"I would like to thank all the staff for the special care they are giving to my daughter, the staff are very kind and helpful"



We will be bringing you some very interesting workshops next term, these include:

Self-care workshop - 13th May 2022

RSE information session – 20th May 2022

Cake Workshop – 27th May 2022 (Belgravia)

Behaviour Workshop – 17th June 2022

Nutrition & healthy eating – 24th June 2022

Stretch & wellbeing – 8th July 2022

Cake Workshop – 12th July 2022 (Calthorpe)

For further information and support feel free to contact Masuma Rajwani on 0121 773 4637

Have a lovely break



Masuma Rajwani

Family Support Co-ordinator

School News

Important contact numbers:

To report an absence call 0121 773 4637

To report a late arrival (no show) or complaint with Transport call Travel Assist on 0121 303 4955

To speak to the Special School Nurses at Calthorpe main site call 0121 771 2527

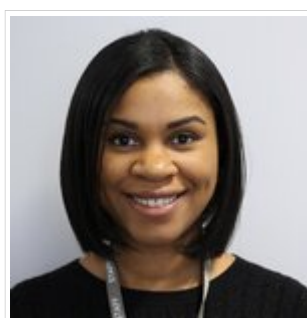
SCHOOL CLOSURE IMPORTANT REMINDER:

" Friday 10th June (Postponed Trust training day due to the pandemic)

" Thursday 21st July (Teacher Training Day)

The school will be closed to students on these days

The last day the school will be open to pupils this year is Wednesday 20th July.



Simone Studley
Attendance Officer

School News

Attendance Spring 2022

Good attendance and punctuality are an important part of your child's school life. We'd like to remind all parents and carers that students are expected to attend unless they're feeling unwell or have a medical appointment meaning they're unable to attend. School hours are 9 am-3.20 pm daily.

Please remember that holidays will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and you can request leave from the Attendance Officer by calling the school.

If you have any queries about attendance, please feel free to get in touch because we're here to help.