



Head Teachers Message

Dear parents / carers,

The start of this academic year has been one of the best I have witnessed during my time as Head Teacher here at Calthorpe Academy. Learners have integrated into their classes very well and new staff have already made a positive impact on our provision. Our Learners have taken part in many exciting educational opportunities and have made good progress against their EHCP targets. We have received external reviews from our Trust (Thrive Educational Partnership) and the feedback given by observers has been very positive as well as formative for future development of our Academy.

Despite the good start we had so far, we also know that the cost of living crisis is affecting many of us and you may want help accessing grants and debt advice, support in accessing money you are entitled to, or simply want to know more about the government's recent support measures. Our Pastoral Team has compiled for you a great source of information and guidance under our "support available" page on our website: <https://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac/support-available>

We will continue to deliver a rich curriculum promoting social and moral values to support our learners to become exceptional citizens of our community in 2023 and I wish you a fantastic Christmas break as well as a great new year.

Kind regards,



Mounir Meghalsi

Head Teacher



Post 16 improving our health!

Students from Post 16 have been visiting Ladywood Leisure Centre this term to use the gym facility.

Over the course of the term they have learned to access a wide variety of the equipment there and to set up their own exercise routines using the touch screens on the cycling, cross training and walking machines. Staff from Ladywood Leisure Centre have been very welcoming and really supported our students in their induction process and making sure they get the most of their visit. Some students have also benefitted from the experience and qualifications of the support staff and have engaged in their own, personal training sessions!

Educational visits such as this will not only benefit the students' levels of health and fitness, but will improve their confidence and competence when accessing the wider community and help to facilitate their transition to an adult, Post 19 world.

Students have really enjoyed this enrichment experience and are looking forward to returning after the Christmas break:

- "I like going to the gym it helps me feel calm and grown up."
- "The gym helps me become strong and healthy"



Sarah Jobson

Extended Leader for Post 16



Engagement for Life



Some of our Engagement for Life learners recently experienced an art installation trip to the Reel Store in Coventry. They had the opportunity to step into the world of extraordinary life of the artist Frida Kahlo. Visiting the venue gave them the opportunity to explore a multisensory story via a 360-degree light projection of the artist's work accompanied by music.

The story was told from the perspective of the artist herself, each of the learners had a chance to explore their senses and to be part of the story in different ways. Some of them preferred walking around and looking at the walls where the images were changing slowly, whereas others enjoyed sitting and exploring illustrations on the floor.

They showed a lot of enthusiasm and engagement responding with lots of smiles and vocalisations as the environment around them changed.



Aimee Prentice

Extended Leader for Engagement for Life



Learning for Life Festive Experiences

As we draw to the end of the autumn term, Learning for Life classes have been taking the opportunity to attend various festive experiences and performances across the city.

Our Early years, Key stage one and two classes went to see the pantomime of 'Jack and Beanstalk' at The REP. Others including some from our Engagement for life pathway, attended an immersive winter themed story of Raymond Brigg's 'The Bear', enjoying the adventures and relationship between a young girl 'Tilly' and a polar bear.



Key Stage three and four learners attended a performance of 'The Nativity' or visited the 'Winter wonderland' experience at the Tamworth Snowdome where they had the opportunity to try tobogganing, watch a Christmas show and meet winter animals.

Going out into the community for enrichment experiences such as these, is essential for our learners to become more independent and generalise skills that they've been developing and acquiring in the class as well as enrich their experience at Calthorpe.



Tom Willott

Extended Leader for Learning for Life



Learners in the Foundations for Life Out and About!

Our key stage one learners have visited Scallywags and Gravity Trampolining Parks at the Fort and Star City as part of their Independence and Community Participation and Physical Wellbeing lessons. All had a great time working on their balance, co-ordination and gross motor skills. Not only are the trampolines fun, but they have helped encourage our learners to be healthier and active.



F11 have been taking the tennis scene by storm at the Priory Tennis Club. They have attended weekly specialists' sensory tennis sessions, and have been serving up some ace performances. We have been mastering our imitation skills through physical activity on the court!

F12 have also been visiting a variety of places including accessing Revolution Gymnastic in Selly Oak, which part of the partnership work we are doing with Sense Charity.

All the children and young persons are always excited and really look forward to these visits. Please let us know if you need some support and useful tips in taking your child/young person out and about.



Jila Chishimba

Extended Leader for Foundations for Life



Belgravia Update

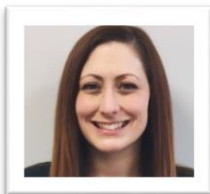
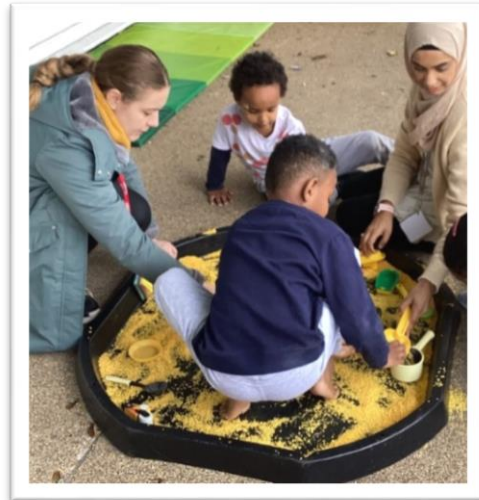
We supported Children in Need on Friday 18th November.

Belgravia School learners and staff had great fun celebrating and raising funds, in a variety of different ways.

Learners and staff wore fancy dress and yellow items of clothing.

Sensory arts and crafts activities were carried out in class across the day, along with face painting.

The main event of the day saw all classes participating in a messy play yellow marathon in our outdoor area. We are looking forward to celebrating and raising awareness across the rest of this year for events in our Personal Development calendar!



Laura Lee

Belgravia School Head of Centre



Pathways to Podium Silver Award



We have successfully achieved the Pathway to Podium Silver Quality Mark! Pathway to Podium is a programme to recognise and celebrate the commitment of Birmingham schools to PE, school sport and physical activity as part of a more enriched curriculum.

After working with Sport Birmingham and our School Games organiser they quoted that Calthorpe achieved the Silver mark for showing a

commitment to developing their PE School Sport and Physical Activity (PESSPA) offer for improved pupil health and wellbeing.

This has been down to an individualised and inclusive curriculum, great opportunities for lunch time clubs, increased participation at clubs and the introduction to Sport Leaders.

Over the spring term, Calthorpe will be introducing the Golden Mile and other initiatives in the hope to achieve the Gold mark in the summer.



Danielle Carrick-Perks

Head of PE



Parental Engagement

We have had a busy term with lots of very successful workshops these include, Jewellery making session/English classes by Adult Services, Cerebra workshop, Communication workshop, Visual support workshop, SEND support session by Hall Green Families and Online safety workshop by NSSPCC.



The turnout was amazing and I would like to thank all the parents who attended these workshops.



Here are some very positive feedbacks:

- *"The workshop was helpful as she explained the benefits of using different forms of communication and how it helps the child with independence" (Visual workshop)*
- *"Extremely helpful information, it was very valuable. Leaving very happy and satisfied. Thank you!" (SEND support session)*
- *"This workshop was very helpful, thank you!" (Communication workshop)*
- *"Everything mentioned was on point, signposting where appropriate" (Cerebra workshop)*





We are looking forward to 2023 and we'll be bringing once again some very exciting workshops for you, please complete the survey below to share your interests with us for next year.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2pbqpGRmVEuSIY_ZosYjkh4FuGKsyb1BrynsKdal6cVURE80WlQ4SzUyS0EySVhVVVFFQ081M08wRy4u

Partners across Birmingham are connecting together to support families who want early help, you can request support by completing the family connect form below for self-referral.

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

Have a lovely holiday!!!!



Masuma Rajwani

Family Support Coordinator



Attendance update

Spring Term 2023

Term Starts: Tuesday 3 January 2023

Half Term: Monday 20 February 2023 to Friday 24 February 2023

Term Ends: Friday 31 March 2023

Summer Term 2023

Term Starts: Monday 17 April 2023

Half Term: Monday 29 May 2023 to Friday 2 June 2023

Term Ends: Tuesday 25 July 2023

Teacher Training Days

Monday 27th February 2023

Tuesday 25th July 2023 (TBC)

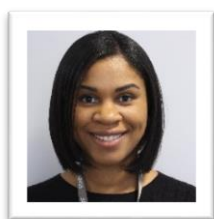
***The Academy will be closed for an additional Trust Training Day
– the date for this has not yet been confirmed.***

Bank Holidays during Term Time

1st May 2023 - Early May bank holiday

8th May 2023- Bank holiday for the coronation of King Charles III

If there are any changes to teacher training dates, you will be notified.
You can find all our term dates and teacher training dates on our website <http://www.calthorpe.thrive.ac>
and on our app



Simone Studley

Attendance Officer