



Issue 014

29 April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very happy with the way our pupils have returned following the Easter break and settled straight back into lessons. During a 'learning walk' this morning we were delighted to see every pupil engaged with their learning and interacting politely and respectfully with staff and each other.

As a result of their engagement in their Learning at Yarrow Heights, most pupils are making progress and (when they need to) are catching up on studies they may have missed in previous schools in the past. Our new year 9 options started this week, and it was lovely to see these pupils taking part in Psychology, IT User Skills and Art GCSE lessons today.

In addition to the six lessons a day which now take place, all our pupils take part in Enrichment activities at the end of each day. These offer exciting opportunities for pupils to develop their creative, practical, sporting or intellectual skills - as well as have fun! Pupils are able to choose their activities from a wide selection including Story Time with George (Therapy Dog), Laser Tag, Cold Cooking Club, Relaxation, Running Club, Horticulture, Media, YH Players (Performing Arts), Games, Textiles, Art, Hair & Beauty, Modern Languages, Maths Brainiac and Sports.



Timetable Keyrings

Organisation is key to success! Our pupils are following a new timetable this term and in order to support them with this we have provided 'Timetable Keyrings' for them to check their lessons. These also contain rewards points sheets with our Values poster in miniature, as well as colour-coded Zones of Regulation cards, in the event that a movement break is being requested. The timetable is working well and pupils have quickly adapted to six lessons per day.

School Development - Top Floor

We are busy developing the top floor of the main school building into a brand-new teaching and therapy space, predominantly for our older, KS4 pupils. They will gain an additional four classrooms, therapy room and bistro-style kitchen area where they will be able to make their own snacks, developing skills for adult life. The second floor will be open when we return in September, and we can't wait to show you all when it's finished.





Library



Work continues to take place on our designated library space, situated between the IT and Art rooms downstairs. This cosy area will be lined with bookshelves and furnished with comfortable seating. The English department are supporting pupils to make a wide range of book choices and will ensure that there are fiction and non-fiction texts and magazines to choose from. Pupils will be encouraged to go to the library and read during break and lunch times, as well as during lessons when appropriate. Activities such as 'Storytime with George' will take place in the library, which we intend be a warm and peaceful place in which our pupils can immerse themselves in books.

Pupils who are unwell

In common with all schools, we operate a 48-hour 'stay at home' rule regarding sickness or diarrhoea. If your child displays any symptoms of this nature, we ask you please to keep your child at home for 48 hours after the last bout of illness, to avoid passing bugs around school.

Odd Socks Day

We are having an '**Odd Socks Day**' on **Wednesday 4th May**. This is an opportunity for pupils to have fun, be themselves and spread awareness of core anti-bullying values. So, don't be surprised if your child suddenly develops an urge to wear odd socks next Wednesday!



YHS Values Trophies

Congratulations to the winners of our Values Trophies for last ½ term:



Resilience: Archie

Initiative: Izzy A-S

Communication: Amber

Kindness: Patrick

Responsibility: Alyssia

These pupils were awarded the most points in relation to one of the five YHS Values over the course of the 6-weeks.....superb effort from all the children!





Mind and Body Boost



After Breakfast Club, pupils begin the day with a 20-minute session designed to be calming or alerting. A mixture of calming activities take place in dedicated zones around The Hub, while pupils who need to 'wake up and shake up' go to the hall for a game of dodgeball. Calming activities include Games Table, Conversation Corner, Yoga and Relaxing Music Mat, Outdoor Sensory Exploration, Puzzles and Drawing Table.

Easter Egg Drop on the Last Day of Term

During a fun morning of activities on the last day of the spring term, pupils worked in tutor groups using mainly recycled materials to test their inventiveness skills. The idea was to create an apparatus which could support the safe descent of a raw egg in its shell from the top of some steps to the floor in our hall. Pupils became quite competitive and Class KC were triumphant in their victory, by creating a parachute which safely brought their egg to the ground. Here we see pupils from Michael and Sarah's Tutor Group passing their creation on to our Head of Therapy, Doug, for their egg launch from the stairs you see in the background which in turn were on the top of our stage! The winning Tutor group was KC, who have won an offsite reward trip!



Parent Questionnaire

You will shortly receive the results of our parent questionnaire in a separate email. Thank you so much for participating in the survey; we are very grateful that 68% of you took the time to let us know your thoughts. Your views are important to us and help shape the way we continue to improve our education and therapy offer.

Key Contacts

In case you need to contact us, here's a list showing who to get in touch with, depending on the nature of your enquiry. Our office is staffed throughout the day; if we are on another call and you can't get through, please do leave a message or email to let us know that you would like us to return your call. See below.





Who to contact at Yarrow Heights School

Main Office/Reporting your Child's Absence

All messages are accessed by 0730 each morning and reported to the appropriate person(s). Please email or call before this time.

02382 124590 or
reception@yarrowheights.com;

Pastoral Support

Kieran Short – 07436245559
Kieran.short@yarrowheights.com

Family Liaison

Alana Lunn 07467 503767
Alana.Lunn@yarrowheights.com

SENDCo/EHCP Review Meetings

Naomi Arthur – 02382 124590
Naomi.Arthur@yarrowheights.com

Medication/LA Transport Support

Cat Catton – 02382 124590
Cat.Catton@yarrowheights.com

Whole School Matters

Head Teacher

Karen Gaster
– 07551791563
Karen.Gaster@yarrowheights.com

Deputy Head Teacher /Head of Education

Jane Straw – 07443 386601
Jane.Straw@yarrowheights.com

Head of Therapy and Operations

Doug Grieb – 02382 124590
Doug.Grieb@yarrowheights.com

Please call our general school number: **02382 124590** to be directed to the appropriate teacher. As teachers are generally in class throughout the school day, it is advisable to email the teacher directly. They can then return your email/call as soon as they become available.

Secondary Teachers

IT - **Chris Carter**
Chris.Carter@yarrowheights.com;
Maths - **David Umeofia**
David.Umeofia@yarrowheights.com;
Science - **Katrina Churton**
Katrina.Churton@yarrowheights.com
PE - **Kristina Karpova**
Kristina.Karpova@yarrowheights.com
PSHE/Psychology - **Liam Gaster**
Liam.Gaster@yarrowheights.com
Humanities - **Michael Currie**
Michael.Currie@yarrowheights.com
Art & Design - **Michelle Gilbert**
Michelle.Gilbert@yarrowheights.com
Maths - **Sarah Moxham** -
Sarah.Moxham@yarrowheights.com
English and Performing Arts - **Sarah Heather**
Sarah.Heather@yarrowheights.com
English - **Sophia Sofianopoulos**
Sophia.Sofianopoulos@yarrowheights.com

Primary Teachers

Lisa Hotchkiss Lisa.Hotchkiss@yarrowheights.com
Mario Jarek Mario.Jarek@yarrowheights.com
Ria Lewis Ria.Lewis@yarrowheights.com

Safeguarding Concerns

Senior DSL - Jane Straw
07443 386601 / Jane.straw@yarrowheights.com

DSL - Kieran Short
07436245559 / Kieran.short@yarrowheights.com

DSL - Phil Perry-Oden
02382 124590 / phil.perry-ogden@yarrowheights.com

DSL - Alana Lunn
07467 503767 / Alana.Lunn@yarrowheights.com

