

St. Peter's Collegiate Academy

SEND News



Autumn Term 2022



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SEND at St. Peter's

Welcome and Transition

Welcome to a new school year and an extra welcome to our new Year sevens. We hope you have all settled into the daily routine at St. Peter's. Everyone looked very smart, happy and excited to be back in school.

There have been a lot of new developments in our SEND department this year. We have appointed a Deputy Sendco to develop, amongst other things, staff training to ensure your children get the best possible teaching. We have also appointed two Assistant Sendcos in charge of SEMH and Access Arrangements. We have also appointed several new TAs for in-class support and will introduce them in the next newsletter.

Dates to Remember

Year Seven SEND Coffee Morning: December (date to be announced).

Year Seven Parents Evening: 20/10/22

SEND/Intervention "Drop in": These will be on a Friday between 3 and 4pm. Our first one is online on 4/11/22 and a log in email will be sent out soon.

Introducing the Staff

Ms K Glover - Sendco

Mrs E Green - Deputy Sendco (KS3)

Miss K Brown - Assistant Sendco (SEMH)

Mrs R Johal - Assistant Sendco (Access Arrangements)

Mrs J Peacock - Intervention Support

Mrs M Heath - Intervention Support

Mrs E Beese - Accelerated Reader

Mrs P Smith - Administrator

Quiz

- What does SEMH stand for?
- What is Accelerated Reader?
- What does the "D" in SEND stand for?
- What is a DSL?
- Who is our DSL at St. Peter's?

Answers on the last page.

Send Top Tips

Supporting your child at home.



Autumn Term 2022



Reading Focus

"Reading is to the mind, what exercise is to the body." Joseph Addison

Getting teenagers to read can be a challenge! We offer a wide range of reading options and support in school but here are some of the things you can do at home.

Join the Library, you can join on line and download their app called "Borrow Box". This has ebooks and audio books.

The advantage of an ebook is font size, style and colour can all be changed to suit the reader. Audiobooks are a fantastic choice too!

<https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/libraries/join-the-library>.

Kindle App: You can have the Kindle app on your phone free of charge and many of their books are also free. This also has the advantage of allowing easy change of font size, colour and style. Definitely worth a look!

Send Help

We are here to support your child and will offer whatever assistance we can. However, never underestimate the support you can offer at home!

See our Top Tips and useful links.

BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z4kw2hv>

Bitesize covers all the subjects that your child studies and breaks them down into short, easy to manage chunks.

Oak Academy

<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage>

This is an excellent resource that uses pre-recorded live lessons to help your child. It is completely free of charge and no account is needed.

Paired Reading

What are the benefits of paired reading?

Paired reading helps your child by you both working together. This encourages cooperation and supports self-assisted learning. It allows you to take turns reading and provide each feedback as a way to monitor comprehension.

Book of the Month

"The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Rauf.

This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria (he is the boy at the back of the class).

Through their sensitivity, curiosity, ingenuity, bravery and innocent niceness, they make a massive impact on Ahmet's life, friends, class, school, community and wider world.

Student Recommendation "Invisible Emmie" by Terri Libeson

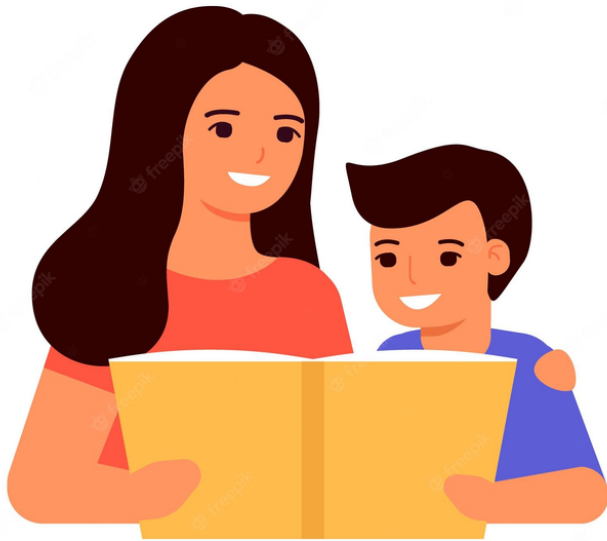
Thirteen-year-old Emmie is the quiet girl at school, the one nobody notices. She loves to draw – and is good at it too – and has a best friend, Brianna, but her crippling shyness makes school and interacting with, well, anyone, really scary.

Today, Emmie and Brianna spend their lunch writing deliberately over-the-top love letters to their respective crushes. It's just supposed to be a bit of fun between the two friends, but when Emmie unknowingly drops one of them and it's picked up by the most annoying kid in her class, school suddenly gets even more awkward than usual. How will Emmie handle the sudden attention?

Reluctant Readers

The Book Trust has a wide range of books for reluctant readers. Please follow this link to see the list. Remember to ask your child to check the Library at school too.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/reluctant-readers-9-12/>



Making Reading Permanent

Strategy and tips for success in becoming a well-developed reader

Accelerated Reader: Mrs L Beese runs our AR programme and all KS3 students receive one reading lesson per week during their English lessons. Students can select a book that boosts their reading age, quiz, earn points and prizes, and boost their reading skills. Click the link below for more detail.

<https://www.renaissance.com/products/accelerated-reader/>

Reading at home

You can support this programme at home by helping your child read their book. Listening to your child reading aloud and reading books together is a fantastic way to foster and develop a love of reading. Reading is also a good "grounding" technique after a stressful day at school.

AR books are lent to students and should be changed regularly. We know that time is short and lives are busy but finding time to read with your child for even 10 minutes per day will make a real difference.

Getting Organised

Processing and Memory

Lots of students need some additional support getting organised. Here are some ways we help them in school, and some ways you can help them at home.

Signs of Slow Processing Speed

<http://www.ilslearningcorner.com>

Home

- Needs extra time to make decisions
- Frequently overwhelmed with a task
- Has trouble starting homework
- Has difficulty finishing homework
- Takes a long time to complete homework
- Hates changes to routines
- Regularly underestimates the time they need to complete a task
- Struggles with trying any new foods
- Has difficulty recognizing how their behavior affects others

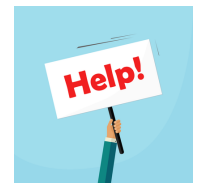
Classroom

- Forgets to bring materials from home for school assignments
- Does not finish tests in allotted timeframes
- Struggles to take notes while the teacher is lecturing
- Does not complete classwork at school (frequently brings home worksheets to finish)
- Finds difficulty in solving mental math
- Doesn't plan ahead for large school projects
- Lacks focus with reading and taking notes
- Tries to avoid multi-step math problems

Does your child show any of these traits?

If you have concerns, questions or just want to discuss it. Please contact us.

info@stpetersacademy.org.uk



Getting Organised at home.

"Life is what happens when you're making other plans" John Lennon.

Life is busy and hectic and getting more so day by day. Keeping on top of things can be a full time job on it's own! Some of our students need some extra support with the organisational element of secondary school. There is a lot to remember and all the days are busy.

Try these to support your child at home:

- Colour coded folder - one for each subject. Put all the items from that subject into the folder.
- Pack bags the night before - get into the habit of sorting out your school bag as soon as you get in from school. The folders make this much quicker!
- Attend homework club twice a week (we find Tuesday and Thursday works well, as the homework doesn't build up).

Wunder

If you are looking for an online parent community, this terms suggestion is "Wunder". Lots of advice and support from and for parents raising children with learning and thinking difficulties.

<https://www.understood.org/en/articles/10-tips-to-help-get-your-child-organized>

Getting Organised at home.

- Have copies of your timetable - a small one attached to your bag, one in your planner, one on your phone (and parent/guardian phone) and at least one paper one in your bag.
- Have a morning and evening checklist (please contact us if you want some assistance with these). This will enable your child to develop independent organisation skills.
- Use a planner; you can get one from school or purchase an academic diary or use an app on your phone.

Processing and Memory

Being disorganised or "forgetful" is not a cause for concern on its own but if you are worried that there is memory loss or other symptoms, please contact your GP.

Support in School

We offer the following support strategies in school to help your child:

- Checklists for the start and end of lesson
- Colour coded timetables - coded for area of school or lesson
- Homework planner that also includes further tools to aid learning and organisation - please contact the school if you feel your child would benefit from this.
- Morning Club - your child can ask for help with the day to come as well as any other issues they may be having.
- Homework Club- teachers are on hand to help with homework and our LSAs will also help with any organisation they can.
- Providing students with a "ready for school" pack - if you would like more information on this, please contact the school or ask your child to speak to their form tutor.



Social Skills

Why are social skills so important?

Social Skills don't always come naturally or easily to neurodivergent students. If your child struggles with these skills please see what we have to offer and contact us if there is anything you want to discuss. We are here to help.



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GRASP Programme

Strategy and tips for Social success.

St. Peter's Collegiate Academy GRASP programme offers our Year seven students' skills to cope with, and negotiate their way through, tough situations, as well as shape positive relationships with their peers and adults.

These skills can improve academic attainment and enhance pupils' motivation, as well as promote wellbeing and help prevent mental health difficulties from developing.

We run several GRASP programmes throughout the year, if you think this is something your child would benefit from, please get in touch.

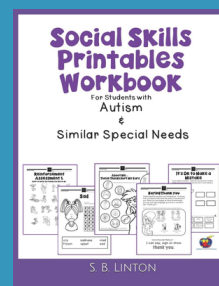
Making Friends

It can be difficult to make friends. Neurodiverse students don't always think or behave in the "same way" as other students and this can be tricky. We have lots of support in school to help.

Join a club

Lots of our students recommend joining school clubs. You will find students with similar interests and the group sizes are significantly smaller. There is no academic expectation so the pressure is often less.

Help at home



https://www.amazon.co.uk/Social-Skills-Printables-Workbook-Students/dp/1650206003/ref=sr_1_3?crid=1YTUVXYK0HJO&keywords=Social+skills+printables&qid=1664781801&qu=eyJxc2MiOilwLjAwliwicXNhIjojMC4wMCIslmFzcCI6IjAuMDAifQ%3D%3D&s=books&prefix=social+skills+printables%2Cstripbooks%2C74&sr=1-3

Clubs and Enrichment

Autumn Term 2022



Further details on how to join coming soon to the website!

Lego Club

Why do we recommend Lego Club?

Lego club is therapy based intervention that involves building LEGO models in small groups of three where the children take on different roles and work together. Lego club benefits those who need support with turn taking, sharing, joint problem solving and general communication and social communication skills.

Lego club has three jobs that can be taken on. Each job has a set of skills to practice and the children have the opportunity to practice all three jobs.

Engineer- this job enables children to practice giving relevant information when they talk and clarify their meaning.

Supplier- this job enables children to practice following shorter instructions, understanding concepts, asking for clarification.

Builder- this job enables children to practice following longer instructions, understanding concepts and asking for clarification.

Morning Club

Morning Club is a warm and welcoming club open to all students that need some additional support first thing in the morning.

Morning Club runs five days a week, from 8.20 – 8.45am. It's a quiet and friendly space where students can get help with work and mix with other students of all ages.

Morning Club attendees are always met by at least two members of staff who are on hand to help with any personal problems if needed or just to give students a positive outlook for the day.

If this is something that you would like your child to attend please get in touch!

Can you help?

Anyone who loves Lego knows that there is no such thing as too much Lego!

If you do have any good quality Lego blocks or Ideas books, we would be very grateful for the donation.

Clubs and Enrichment

Autumn Term 2022



Building Social Skills

Drama Club runs on a TUESDAY afternoon from 3.10-4.30pm in D65 (The school theatre) and is a fantastic way to build confidence and develop social skills.

If your child is interested, please ask them to speak to their Form Tutor or Miss Tildesley.

The school offers a wide range of PE/Physical clubs. Physical activity is not only important for your physical health but your mental health as well. If there are any additional clubs that your child would like to join, please contact the school and we will see what we can do!

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PDWwP0f3DhXIXj-zrIVN8zhkuzkurizV5GLYASxvPI/edit?usp=sharing>

Film Club

Film Club runs on a THURSDAY Lunch-time in D64.

Miss Craig offers a wide range of age appropriate films and it is a lovely way to spend time with other students, eat your lunch but without the pressure to be actively social. (Unless you want to be).

If you think your child would be interested, please ask them to speak to either their form tutor or Miss Craig in English.



We recommend...

We have a wide variety of clubs available at lunch-times and after school.

Please encourage your child to try a variety of them to see if there is anything they like.

Contact Us

Autumn Term 2022



Worried?

It is normal to worry about your child in school, especially if they need extra assistance. Please use the following emails if there is anything you need to discuss.

info@stpetersacademy.org.uk

Please use the staff name - at the beginning of this briefing - or the following names to ensure your email gets to the right person.

Mr D Sherriff - Safeguarding
Mr G Holmes - Behaviour/Inclusion
Mr J Peacock - Head of year - Year 7
Mr M Maullin - Head of year - Year 8
Mr R Mclean - Head of year - Year 9
Miss E Lord - Head of year - Year 10
Mrs A Johnson - Head of year - Year 11
Miss B Pritchard - Head of Post 16

Concerns and Worries

Secondary school is a big change, it can cause worry and concern.

Please contact the school if you have any issues or there are any problems. We will help.

Quiz Answers

- SEMH - Social, emotional, mental Health.
- AR - Accelerated Reader. A reading programme followed by all KS3 students
- D in SEND - Disabilities
- DSL - Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Who? - Mr D Sheriff - but you can speak to any member of staff and they will help you get to the right person.

And to finish.....

Lord, by such things people live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live.

Isaiah 38:16

