PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Severndale Academy

24/06/25

THIS WEEK'S UPDATE

Dear Families,

We are in full organisation mode to get the end of year reports out to you over this fortnight, and to share information about your young person's class teacher for September.

From September, we will be basing our class names on a theme rather than by class teachers at Monkmoor. The Foundation Department will have tree names, Key Stage 2 will have birds, Key Stage 3 will have constellations, and Post-14 will have local landmarks. As part of their transition weeks during the last two weeks of term, classes will be learning about their new class name and bringing their creativity to class signage and displays.

Later in this update, you can find out about our new Assistant Principals for Foundation (Jenny Arnold), and Post-14 (Charlotte Higgins). Ceri Cusack and Laurence Riley, who have held the Foundation and KS4 Department roles alongside their Vice Principal roles for the past 18 months are staying with us, but will now be able to develop their SENCo and Quality of Education roles further in the new year. Liz Harrison, who has been based across Futures and Key Stage 5, will lead on Futures and Preparation for Adulthood, including Work Related Learning from September.

We are however very sorry to say that Lisa Williams, our Vice Principal for Behaviour and Attitudes, is moving on in September. Lisa is taking on the role of Headteacher at Haughton Special School in Telford. Lisa has made a huge, beneficial impact on our Positive Behaviour Support model, and our Trauma Informed practice at Severndale and she will be greatly missed. We know Lisa will be brilliant in her new role, and we plan to continue working with her in our Special School collaborative work across Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

Don't forget that if you have a question, query, grumble or praise, please contact your child's teacher, Department Co-ordinator, AP, VP or me! We are all here to listen when you need us!

Severndale Academy, Monkmoor Campus
Woodcote Way, Shrewsbury
SY2 5SH
https://severndaleacademy.co.uk/
Contact Us: +44(0)1743 563333

Parent Partnership Events Reminder

As part of our Parent Partnership offer, we will be facilitating workshops each month for parents/carers on subjects that have been requested by parents/carers.

Workshops: Friday 27th June EHCPs 10am (SENCO/EHCP lead)
Wednesday 16th July Behaviour 2pm (Behaviour lead)

On workshop dates, the parent partnership room will be open from 9.30 to 11.00am with refreshments available.
In fortnightly intervals in between the workshops, there will be a coffee morning where you can come in to chat and get advice from other parents about all things SEN and parenting.

Coffee Morning: Friday 11th July

If you would like to join us for any of the workshop events please let me know so that I can ensure that there is enough cake and biscuits to go around.
No need to book for informal coffee mornings!
Lorna (lorna.matley@lct.education)

More Dates for Your Diary

Monday 23rd June – Key Stage 5 Enterprise event

Wednesday 25th June – Parent's meal organised by Key Stage 5 students.

26 /27 June – Duke of Edinburgh Residential for Key Stage 4 Mary Webb

Friday 27th June – Armed Forces Day – students are invited to wear military colours or uniforms if they are a member of Scouting, Guiding or Cadets.

30th / 1st / 2nd July – 'I can Challenge' – Foundation parent event – Class teachers will confirm date/times directly with Parents.

Week beginning 30th June – Annual Reports sent to parents/carers

Sports week events & Year 6 End of KS2 Awards Assemblies - letters sent to individual pupils/classes as appropriate.

Wednesday 2nd July - Leavers Prom at The Wroxeter Hotel

Transition Weeks - 7th to 17th July - Learners transition to their new classes for settling in ahead of the Summer break.

We wanted to share some valuable information that a few of our parents have recently brought to our attention. For children who are particularly sensitive to the noise and vibration of traditional hair clippers, Calming Clippers might be a helpful solution.

These innovative clippers are designed to significantly reduce both sound and vibration, aiming to make haircut experiences much more comfortable and less overwhelming for children with sensory sensitivities. Parents who have tried them have shared positive feedback on how they've helped alleviate anxiety around haircuts for their children.

They come with guards to clip on to scissors so they are easy to use to get the desired length with ease.

More information can be found on the website, it has lots of information and images/videos to help with cutting hair.

https://www.calmingclipper.com/

New Assistant Principal for Post-14 (Monkmoor)

Hello, my name is Charlotte Higgins, and I'm thrilled to be joining Severndale as Assistant Principal for Post-14 this September.

I've worked with individuals with special educational needs for over 18 years, supporting children, young people, and adults across both education and community settings. For the past 13 years, I've taught in special schools in Telford, taking on a range of leadership roles including PSHE Lead, Communication Lead, and Assistant Headteacher. I'm passionate about creating inclusive, person-centred learning environments where every young person can thrive, and I'm really looking forward to continuing that work at Severndale.

My leadership approach is rooted in high expectations, collaborative working, and a deep belief in the potential of every student. I have a particular passion for inclusive communication, and I've seen first hand how powerful these strategies can be in helping learners access the curriculum, build independence, and develop mental wellbeing. I know that Post-14 is a particularly important time for students, full of change and opportunity, and I look forward to working together with families, students and colleagues to make it a positive and empowering experience.

I'm really looking forward to getting to know the students, families, and staff team, and to contributing to the fantastic work already happening here. Please don't hesitate to say hello, I'm always here to listen, chat, and support.

New Assistant Principal for Foundation Dept

My name is Jenny Arnold and I am delighted to be relocating to Shropshire and joining Severndale as Assistant Principal for the Foundation Stage from September 2025. I have worked in education for over 25 years, and supporting students with SEND is something which I have always been passionate about. Over the course of my career to date, I have worked in SEN roles within Specialist and mainstream settings across a range of key stages.

I am particularly interested in early childhood development and have additional qualifications in this area. I am excited to be working with colleagues in Foundation to make learning for our youngest students an engaging, supportive and positive experience which starts with each child's individual needs. I believe that effective SEN provision is about teamwork between school and parents/ carers. As such, I look forward to developing effective two-way communication with you all.

I look forward to getting to know you and your families in September.

LITTLE RAINBOWS

SEN SESSIONS

SAFE, SUPPORTIVE SEN STAY AND PLAY SESSIONS FOR 0-8S

DITHERINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

10-11:30AM

SATURDAYS

Calm, inclusive play environment
Sensory friendly activities
Gentle structure with space to explore
Signed Makaton songs
Story massage
Opportunity to chat and connect with other parents and carers

CONTACT US

Little Rainbows SEN Sessions

@littlerainbowssen