Severndale Star

Principal's Message

Good afternoon parents and carers

Hope you all are well and I am pleased to say that on Tuesday and Wednesday this week we were visited by OFSTED and welcomed four OFSTED inspectors into Severndale. It was an intensive two days and the inspectors rightfully left no stone unturned during the inspection process. The report will come out in approximately three weeks time and parents will be sent a copy of the report once it is published. I cannot share the outcome of the inspection but I can say that the inspectors were pleased with our work around safeguarding and were clear in the fact that pupils are safe at Severndale. This was the obvious focus for OFSTED following the inspection report in July 2020. In addition they recognised the progress we had made since September in making the curriculum more suited to pupil needs, more focused on communication and also focused on achieving EHCP outcomes. In saying this they also recognised that although we are heading in the right direction it will take more time to fully embed these changes and we need to maintain the drive for improvement in everything we do.

Covid update

I am aware that some parents and carers have been asking questions about the isolation period if a pupil tests positive for Covid. As I have said in previous newsletters please do not hesitate to contact the school with any questions you may have about Severndale and we will ensure you get a response as soon as we possibly can. We have updated our Covid risk assessment and will publish this on our website and have also attached the latest self isolation guidance for children in SEND settings that the local authority have sent to us.

In addition we are currently in a spike across Shropshire with regards to Covid (approximately 1 in 20 are positive at the moment) and the school is seeing an increase in positive cases. Unfortunately we are also seeing people having more significant illness than previously and this is impacting on staffing levels. It is always an absolute last resort to close classrooms yet again this week it has been necessary to move to remote learning for three classes. I want to thank parents and carers of the pupils in these classes for your support this week and we are working to try to enable the classes to open again as soon as we possibly can.

Parent events before Easter

Obviously this week we have been busy with the OFSTED inspection but I want to reassure parents that we are we are intending to get every class to host a parent event before Easter. I will issue a list of times and dates in next weeks newsletter.

Update Contact Information Form

In February a contact information form was circulated to ensure the academy holds the correct up to date information for each student. Many thanks to those of you who have completed this form.

This information allows the academy to communicate efficiently with yourselves and it ensures that those involved in your young person's care have the most recent and relevant data which may need to be used in an emergency.

For those who have not yet completed and returned the form, I would be grateful if you could do so as soon as possible by sending it to the Admin Office at Monkmoor Campus. If you require any assistance or a new blank form, please contact Llewella Griffiths (01743 563290) or Trudi Queen (01743 563291).

Amazing achievement by a Severndale@Mary Webb student

We are so proud of Lizzie Knox, a year 11 pupil at Severndale @ Mary Webb who has been rehearsing for months outside of school with her dance group. The outcome of this is that she will be performing as part of the events schedule for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham over the weekend. This has been a massive undertaking involving many hours of training and practicing as well as driving to and from sessions in Birmingham to rehearse for the big event. Lizzie has been doing all this while studying hard at school and working to achieve her targets and move into the next phase of her education. We want to wish Lizzie every success with the performances although I know that she is amazing with her dancing. Lizzie's mum has kindly allowed us to share the following link to YouTube for a 'live stream' of the performance is happening at 8.30pm on Saturday night.

The youtube address is as follows; https://youtu.be/SGTukQOMTkI

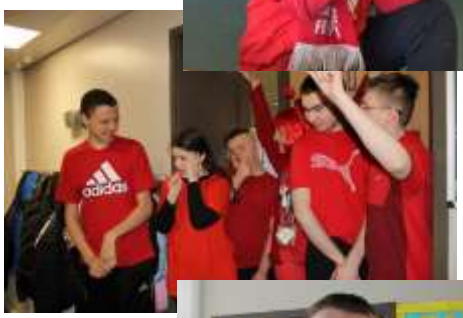
Wondrous Stories Live StreamJoin us for a live-streamed performance of Wondrous Stories on Friday 18 March at 8.30pm (GMT).Packed full of amazing dance-circus by a mass cast, visual mag...youtu.be

It only leaves me now to wish you all a wonderful weekend and we will look forward to seeing all of our pupils again next week.
Brian

Severndale
Specialist Academy

Red Nose Day

The students have been very bright today dressed in red. They all looked amazing and if you can please remember that donations can be made at: https://donation.comicrelief.com/



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Giraffe

We have done it! We needed our tall students from Sixth Form to help us fill the Giraffe right to the top. It is not too late to send in bottle tops by Monday 21 March as the Giraffe is not going back until later that day.

Any left over bottle tops are being taken with the Giraffe and will count towards our overall total. Well done to everybody who have collected and helped to fill our Giraffe.

Africa Arrives in S5

Students in S5 have been learning and reading stories about Africa, the culture, songs and animals. They have been making elephants and are also creating an African inspired cave to look around.

S3 Forest Schools

S3 had a sensory time in forest schools today, looking for bugs in the soil and watching what was underneath the soil. Exploring the garden and the raised beds they found a variety of creepy crawlies, stones and soil. They also enjoyed the sunshine and being out in the fresh air with their friends.

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EYFS Listening Skills

Listening skills are important and this week EYFS students had a sounds bingo session. Where they listened to different everyday sounds like rain and telephones and ticked them off their list to see who was the first to get them all!

Science Week in The Hub

For science week P9 has been exploring plants. They visited the horticulture garden and looked at all the new growth and flowers that are starting to develop. They enjoyed the sights and sounds around the garden.

Sixth Form Visits Aquamira

Some of our sixth form students visited Aquamira as part of their transition days. Aquamira provide an adult day service with different activities including a sensory room.

The sensory room was a particular favourite of our students this week as they all like to watch the coloured bubbles and feel and see the lights around them.

They will be visiting again very soon. Thank you to Aquamira for such a wonderful visit!

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FOS Golf Day

FOS are delighted to announce their 5th Annual Charity Golf Day on Friday 20 May 2022 at Shrewsbury Golf Club, Grange Ln, Condover, Shrewsbury SY5 7BL.

This year we are fundraising for an Interactive Light Room at Severndale Specialist Academy.

Ways you can participate:

- £160 for a team of four, to include a 2-course meal and 18 holes of golf
- £350 to sponsor a hole
- £75 to advertise your company logo in the course guide/programme

For a booking form please send an e-mail to friendsofseverndalegolf@gmail.com
If you feel you can help or contribute to the success of the event in any other way, please send an email to friendsofseverndalegolf@gmail.com or call Dawn Griffiths on 07929790553.
Here's a link to the Facebook event: https://fb.me/e/5dVzz19pk

Mary Webb's Winning Curriculum Day

Year 7 and 8 took part in some Outdoor Activities which included how to stay safe outdoors, pitching a tent and team building activities. Students displayed great teamwork and communication to be successful. Students also benefitted from developing their cognitive skills, decision making, leadership skills and gaining self-esteem through success. Overall, the students worked incredibly hard and had a great positive attitude throughout the activities!

Year 9 and 11 spent half the day creating a stop start animation, they had a pizza topping theme for the session and were able to use their own story to create the animation. Our favourite was a Lego character eating a giant mushroom. The second half of the day the students went to the food technology room to make their own pizza, they had to use the range of skills that they had developed in food technology over the term. They all produced delicious pizzas and enjoyed eating them afterwards.

Year 10's joined with the mainstream Mary Webb students to take part in a STEAM day. In the morning the students received a talk from Inspirational sparks about careers in STEAM and the impact it has on the wider world. They than had a morning in the Science rooms creating their own VR headsets and then created a DNA necklace. After lunch the students had a presentation and then were asked to design and build a prototype for some flood defences for the river Severn. Which was the overall winning project even beating students from mainstream. So very proud of you all well done!

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Shropshire Beam Drop in Workshops

EMOTIONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25

Monday - Drop In's at The Lantern, Meadow Farm Drive, Shrewsbury. SY1 4NG - From 12pm - 4pm (last session 3:15pm)

Tuesdays - Drop In's at Wellington Beam, 9 Market Square Wellington, TF1 1BP - From 10am - 6pm (last session 5:30pm)

Thursdays - Drop In's at Wellington Beam, 9 Market Square Wellington, TF1 1BP - From 10am - 6pm (last session 5:30pm)

This service is run by The Children's Society: Proud to be part of Bee U.

Sixth Form Road Safety

Sixth Form have been going out and about looking at and identifying bus stops and hazards that they may encounter on the roads. They continued to learn about road safety and to stay alert and aware of any dangers. They were really vigilant and did very well at spotting hazards along the way. Well done Sixth Form!

Staff Spotlight

This weeks “Staff Spotlight” section is focusing on and all about Graham…

Name: Graham Spiers
Job: Teacher at Futures

What does this involve?

I work with our older students teaching Functional English and Maths. In functional English and Maths we look at the sort of skills we all use in our everyday lives, from reading information on posters and bills to working with weights and measures for our shopping.

What do I enjoy outside of school?

I enjoy spending time with my beautiful wife and three grandchildren (plus another arriving soon.) When not spoiling them; I enjoy gardening, DIY and making things (I built my own car) and beekeeping.

Please tell us something interesting about you?

Like some of our young people might; I completed an apprenticeship straight from school. I then went on to study as a Mechanical Engineer. I retrained as a Teacher 30 years ago specialising in Design Technology and have worked in several schools performing a variety of different roles since then, joining Severndale four years ago. I have never enjoyed working with young people more than I do at Futures, its brilliant, and I may now rethink my early retirement!

Here you can meet the staff in our newsletter and this will allow everyone to find out more about the people who work at Severndale.

What’s happening this term!

Dates Coming up...

Last day before Easter Friday 8 April 2022
First day back after Easter Monday 25 April 2022
May Day Holiday Monday 2 May 2022
Last day before May Half Term Friday 27 May 2022
First day back after May Half Term Monday 6 June 2022

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