

Friday 29th September 2023

Headlines from the Head

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another week, I just wanted to write to update you on a couple of things.

We now have full-time art provision in school, with Naomi G, which is provided at both curriculum level and also as a therapeutic offer for students, one to one, or small group, referred by our Therapeutic Lead, Sophie. Sophie is now heading up our emotional wellbeing and support offer, which is called the Prosper Programme. I attach an overview of this programme for you to have a look at. This is a trauma-informed approach and sits alongside our academic curriculum model. Naomi G will also soon be undertaking a qualification to offer Draw to Talk sessions with our children, again on a one to one basis.

The Prosper Programme has been devised in response to our Vision Statement and our Values, which Brunel School have developed over the past months. Staff have spent a lot of time looking at how we bring our Values to life so that they impact positively on our community. I have also included at the bottom of this letter, an overview of our new values, which align directly with those of our new Trust.


It has been wonderful to have so many of our Gym medical questionnaires returned and those students have had the opportunity to have group sessions with Skye and Sam over the course of the week. It is proving very popular.


We have appointed Lisa into our full-time Catering and Food Technology role and she has taken over this role with effect from today. Children continue to enjoy these sessions and are building useful life-skills in this regard.


Attendance rates continue to rise as our students engage in our new curriculum with specialist teachers. Attendance is key as we begin to gap fill knowledge and skills with our children. Increased attendance is tracked and recognised in school with its own little celebration. It directly impacts on success at exam level and on improving wider opportunities for our children.




Special
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Emily, our Assistant Head and DSL, is launching our Celebrations Programme on Monday. This is a way of "catching" positive behaviours and celebrating this with our children. It is points based and children will be recognised for positive behaviours in school, from wearing uniform, remaining in class, acts of kindness, demonstrating school values and engagement in lessons. There will be opportunities to achieve Prosper awards both as a tutor group and as an individual student. The children have had a lot of input into this and have told us what rewards they would value, and we have listened.

Our Mission Statement and Values

Welcome to Brunel School, a nurturing and empowering secondary SEMH (Social, Emotional, and Mental Health) school. Our mission is to cultivate an environment where every student can flourish academically, emotionally, and socially, guided by the values of Integrity, Love, Availability, Inclusion, Compassion, Safeguarding, and Aspiration.

At Brunel School, Integrity forms the cornerstone of everything we do. We are committed to fostering a community of honesty, authenticity, and ethical behaviour. Our students are empowered to make responsible choices and develop a strong sense of integrity that will serve as a foundation for their future success.

Love is at the heart of our approach. We believe that genuine care and positive relationships are essential for growth. Our dedicated staff members provide unwavering support, creating a safe space where students can express themselves freely, knowing they are cherished and valued. By nurturing a culture of love, we create an atmosphere conducive to learning, healing, and personal development.


Availability is a testament to our commitment to being present for our students. We recognize that every student's journey is unique, and our doors are always open to offer guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear. Our staff's accessibility ensures that students feel heard, understood, and supported as they navigate their academic and emotional challenges.


Inclusion is more than just a goal; it is the essence of Brunel School. We celebrate diversity in all its forms and embrace each student's individuality. Through inclusive practices, we create an environment where every student feels a sense of belonging and acceptance. By valuing each student's perspective and experiences, we foster a rich and vibrant community.


Compassion is the guiding light that drives our actions. We understand that the journey towards emotional well-being can be complex, and we approach it with empathy and compassion. Our staff members are not just educators but also mentors who encourage resilience, empathy, and understanding among our students. Through compassionate guidance, we equip our students with the tools to overcome challenges and build a brighter future.




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Safeguarding is paramount in our commitment to providing a secure and protective environment for our students. We prioritize their safety, both physically and emotionally, ensuring that they can learn and grow without fear. Our vigilant approach to safeguarding guarantees that students can focus on their education, knowing that their well-being is our top priority.

Aspiration is the driving force behind our educational journey. We instil in our students a belief in their potential, encouraging them to set ambitious goals and work diligently to achieve them. Through nurturing their aspirations, we empower them to envision a future full of possibilities and equip them with the skills and confidence needed to turn their dreams into reality.

Furthermore, we are dedicated to fostering positive relationships and partnerships with families and the wider community. We recognize the vital role that families and the community play in our students' development, and we actively engage in open communication and collaboration. By working together, we create a supportive network that reinforces our commitment to each student's growth and success.


At Brunel School, we are committed to empowering our students to thrive academically, emotionally, and socially. Our comprehensive set of values—Integrity, Love, Availability, Inclusion, Compassion, Safeguarding, and Aspiration—form the foundation of an educational experience that fosters personal growth, resilience, and a strong sense of self-worth. Together, we create a community where every student can rise above their challenges, embrace their full potential, and embark on a journey of lifelong learning and achievement.


Vision statement:


Our school envisions a nurturing haven where love and unwavering support intertwine, keeping students safe and fostering an environment where they can embrace their unique strengths and challenges. Through this commitment, we cultivate brighter futures, empowering our students to overcome obstacles, discover their potential, and step confidently into the World beyond school.




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