

Dear parents and carers,

We have had a wonderful autumn term. Over the course of this term the schools have taken part in a number of special events which include: World Mental Health Day, International Day of Democracy, Black History Month, International Day of Peace, Diwali and many others. Tram House have also continued their KS3 AQA Enrichment activities to support our work on employability skills and they have successfully practised some office skills, learnt to safely use the photocopier and been involved in a festive winter enterprise. Our KS5 pupils have been successful in completing AQA certifications in both Academic and Vocational subject areas and are preparing their portfolios ready for their final destinations.

The introduction of the Hirasmus tablets has been a real highlight of the term for both schools, with accurate data being taken and the progress of pupils being more tangible. It is a delight to see so many targets being worked on as we do learning walks across the school.

At Park House it has been a pleasure to see pupils growing in confidence with continued community outings to local shops, horse-riding, Allfarthing School, swimming and Lady Allen adventure playground. With an introduction of a drama therapist, we have been able to support some targeted intervention allowing for pupils to explore their emotions. Pupils have also taken their academic learning of money outside of school, with some learners visiting Southside Shopping centre with a budget to purchase a variety of items from Tiger. The Polka Theatre trip was also a big hit for some learners where we were fortunate enough for the Theatre to work alongside us to set up a jungle themed event. We have continued delivering clubs with Emmanuel School students. These clubs have been a great success in supporting pupils generalise the communication skills they have been learning.

At Tram House School, it has been great to be able to offer our pupils some new learning opportunities this term, with the introduction of Woodland Connections for TH5 and the introduction of a drama therapist for targeted intervention. As always, we strive to encourage the pupils to be in the community as much as possible and regular trips to swimming, skiing, the local park and shop trips all help support pupils' readiness for the bigger whole school/class trips such as Gravity, Winter Wonderland, the Science Museum and the Odeon. Our Sixth Formers have also been accessing external work experience opportunities at a local café, Specialist Works and Odeon Cinema as well as continuing to deliver on internal work experience placements.

There is always such anticipation each autumn in the build-up to the school Winter Productions however, this year we have moved it to a summer term production! For the past term, pupils have been engaging in a range of clubs during their lunches to prepare for the summer extravaganza - these include skills relating to performing arts, art, fashion, media and music. The song lists are out now for the summer production, and the whole staff community is practising songs, learning signs and supporting their learners to engage in this year's performance.

We wish you all a very restful and safe winter break and the happiest of New Years.

Emma and Matt

Autumn newsletter

2023

Term Dates

Spring 2024

INSET Day: Friday 5th January

Term starts: Monday 8th January

Half-term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February

Term ends: Thursday 28th March (12.30pm)

Summer 2024

INSET Day: Monday, 15th April

Term starts: Tuesday, 16th April

Half-term: Monday 27th – Friday 31st May

Term ends: Wednesday, 24th July (12.30pm)

Admissions

We have had a busy start to the year with applications and tribunals. We are in a position to say that we are at full capacity and are working on ensuring that remains the case for September 2024. We will be conducting open days and assessments until we fill those places. This term, Park House welcomed 11 new pupils all of whom have settled in really well and developed some great relationships with staff. Tram House has successfully welcomed 10 new pupils this term, who have also settled in quickly and are making great progress. Sixth Form also welcomed 9 pupils and they continue to grow in independence as time progresses.

New starters

We've had a number of staff join the organisation this term! A big welcome to the following Teaching and Learning Practitioners...

Maryam Mohamed, Wenzhao Zhang, Cameron Neil Babb-Williamson, Anastasiia Bzhasso, Xhudi Kurti, Talal Shakoh, Isabelle Clem, Deesha Menon, Mussarat Nazir, India Baird, Kanika Mohan, Tanya Yau, Sumaya Abdirahman, Heloise Andrade, Prachi Rajesh Dave, Shedika Easington, Su Gonen, Lilian Amarachi Ibeh, Josy Zhang, Oluwaseun Falodun, Sajika Sivakaren, Noa Melero Yerinkova, Shiqi Zhang, Zainab Sadiq Ragaa Abdelhafiz, Melek Sennur Ucar, Giuseppina Ciadamidaro, Elena Battistini. and Cristina-Elena Hasu.

We have also welcomed Mollie O'Neil (Speech and Language Therapist), Stefani Hapsi (Occupational Therapist), Kathleen Ng (Behaviour Analyst) and Isabel Narayan and Safia Cabdalle (School Receptionists).

Leavers

We're saying goodbye to the following Teaching and Learning Practitioners...

Geun Hwa Jeon, Anis Nazaruddin, Hayfa Ali, Swathi Janardhanan, Diana Iorga, Olakunle Akinola, Khan Muhammad, Ammar Ameen, Erin Schneider, Jing Zgang, Neave Ottway, Maria Del Carmen Chaves Benhadia, Zafrin Kamaly, Jade Marney, Omar Augustine, Jusna Ali, Zinan Nishat, Hamiyet Kara, Madeleine Mcleod-Clarke, Ayan Abdulle, Fatehah Rana, Ho Him Law, Eman Nuur Ali, Lidia Amanuel and Ridhi Tiwari.

We are also saying goodbye to Anastasiia Pognajeva (ASP), Nada Omar (Admissions Officer and Senior Administrator), Tanjila Mehuba (School Receptionist) and Agnieska Kozłowska (Cleaning Manager).

We wish everyone the best in their future endeavours!

Work experience

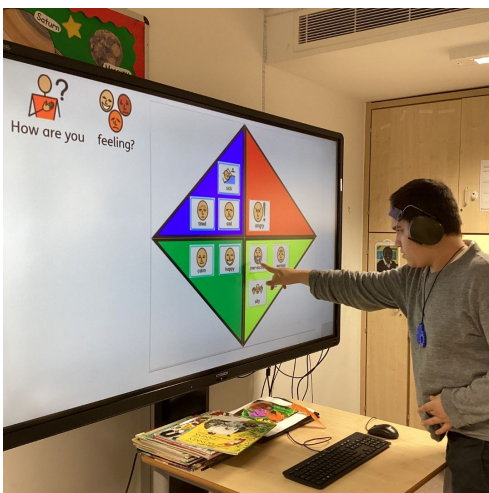
A key aspect of our Sixth Form provision is developing vocational skills setting our learners up for life after education. We have a range of internal and external placements for pupils to choose from based on their interests. One example of this is The Earlsfield Café where pupils help to clean tables, take orders and restock the drinks cabinet. One pupil shared that he enjoys the cleaning tasks and ordering a cake and hot chocolate once he has completed his work. Find out more about our work experience placements in our latest learner story:

beyondautism.org.uk/work-experience/.



Mental Health Awareness Day

Pupils had fun celebrating World Mental Health Awareness Day, where they explored the significance of understanding emotions and expressing themselves through activities that revolved around the Zones of Regulation.



World Food Day

Tram House School embraced World Food Day by developing their culinary skills. The event gave pupils time to work on key independence skills including learning about safety and hygiene in the kitchen.



Panathlon

In November pupils from Tram House School attended a Panathlon event. Learners took part in 8 activities all specifically adapted for people with special needs, each requiring a different set of skills from balance, to coordination and communication. There were big smiles from all on collecting their medals and certificates following the event!



Advent calendar

It's back! Learners across the services have been hard at work choosing and creating their festive masterpieces.

Check in each day in the run up to Christmas for a new surprise.

From snowmen, to reindeer and Christmas cookies, this year the calendar has it all! Simply visit the schools' website to catch up on anything you've missed.



Interactive story telling groups

Interactive story telling groups have been running at Park House School this term with sessions running in Green, Blue, Indigo and Rainbow Classes.

The sessions have used the story 'Oi Get off Our Train' by John Burningham which is told in an interactive way and based on the principles of Lis 'N' Tell (Louise Coigley).



The group targets development of joint attention, interaction skills and communication. Throughout the story, motivating sensory items and visual activities are included, for example bubbles and water play to support attention and interaction.

A word from the charity

Tracie Linehan, CEO

The autumn term is always an exciting time to meet new learners, to watch the progress of known learners in their new classes and to launch new projects and initiatives across the organisation. We've welcomed two new Trustees this term – Malcolm Smith and Tim Reid, and were delighted that Gina Coladangelo took over the schools' Chair of Governors Role. SMT and Trustees spent a day together in November discussing strategy, staff wellbeing and retention, and pupil voice. This was an extremely positive meeting moving towards our Beyond25 consultation. We will be running Beyond25 consultation events in the new year to understand a wide variety of views and perspectives, working towards publishing our 2025-2030 strategy in September 2025.

I am hoping that you have been able to access our very successful Lunch & Learn series (beyondautism.org.uk/online-lunch-and-learns/). The topics coming up that might be of interest are emotional regulation, toileting and siblings. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank families and friends who have participated in fundraising events this term and to introduce Amber Woodward-Brown our new Head of Fundraising. Raising money enables us to provide the Early Years' service free to parents and to develop new services and resources, reaching many more autistic children, young adults, their families and the professionals that work with them.

There is much to look forward to in the new year, including hosting our 4th annual professional conference in the spring titled 'Leading autism education: shaping inclusive education for and with autistic learners', and watch this space for the launch of our new resource hub. We are always keen to hear your perspective, ideas and good news stories and I look forward to hearing from you. My best wishes go out to our pupils and families.

Recent funding successes and updates

Hi everyone, I am Amber Woodward-Brown and am the new Head of our small, but skilled and enthusiastic, Fundraising Team!

I am delighted to be part of the BeyondAutism family and am already working hard to ensure that our fabulous fundraising initiatives continue to gather momentum in order that we enhance positive outcomes for each and every child and young adult we work with. We have said goodbye and good luck this month to Mike Calver, who is moving on to new pastures and have welcomed new parents and children and we would love to have you on board too! You can volunteer, have your say or become a regular giver perhaps? This helps support our much-needed work and it's so simple to do and every penny really does count, so whatever you can afford to contribute is spent with care and makes such a difference. Visit our website to make a donation and help us support more families: beyondautism.org.uk/donate/.

Winter Fete

This term we held our first ever Early Years' Winter Fete fundraiser which raised over £800. Past and present families took part in the wintery and festive activities – and all children big and small had a wonderful time! The children had lots of fun playing in the snow with Santa, dancing with elves on the big screen, colouring in snowmen and Santa pictures at our craft station and playing with all their favourite toys. It was so great to see everyone, and we are already looking to seeing everyone at our Summer Fete in 2024!



We would like to say a massive thank you to our incredible BeyondAutism staff, volunteers from our partner Octopus and our very own Santa, (shhhh – it was really our BeyondAutism Trustee Tim Reid – well Santa is super-busy this time of year!), who gave up their time to make the magic happen.

Carol Concert

For a second year in a row, we welcomed guests to join us in the beautiful surroundings of St Luke's Battersea Church for our Celestial Carol Concert in aid of BeyondAutism. The concert began with a welcome from our Chair of Trustees, Angus Johnston, followed by beautiful carol music by the Celestia Choir and Hornsby House children's choir, with festive readings from our celebrity guest speaker Issy van Randwyck. All followed by a glass of wine and mince pies.



Thank you to everyone who joined us for this wonderful occasion and a special thank you to our BeyondAutism staff for creating the event, our partner Octopus for some very willing volunteers and to the choirs, for their hard work and dedication in the run up to the event!

2024 events

Quiz night: Wednesday 8th May 2024

Join us for our annual charity quiz night. Hosted by broadcaster and journalist Jane Moore, the night features a silent auction, luxury prizes, a gourmet fish and chip supper and of course the quiz!

Whether you are a brainy bunch or looking for a fun filled evening for a worthy cause, we look forward to seeing you next May. Great for teams from work, families, friends, clubs and communities to get involved and make a difference!

This year the Quiz will be held at the Civic Suite, Wandsworth High Street, SW18 2PU and the tickets are £40 per person, in tables of 10. Interested? Visit our website to sign up: beyondautism.org.uk/quiz-night.

Colour Obstacle Rush: Saturday 18th May 2024

Fantastic colourful mayhem ensues once again this year, as we will be taking a BeyondAutism team to the Colour Obstacle Rush. Our runners had an epic time in May 2023, taking on inflatable obstacles and getting colourful. Together they raised a phenomenal £3,000 for the charity.

The Colour Obstacle Rush is a unique event combining the fun of colour powdered runs, the thrill of an obstacle course, and the atmosphere of a music festival. It takes place in May at Kempton Park Racecourse. If you'd like to register your interest for 2024, email fundraising@beyondautism.org.uk.

Parallel Super Sensory 1K: Sunday 7th July 2024

This summer we will be undertaking a new inclusive event, the Parallel SuperSensory 1K, and will be asking staff, families, and learners of all ages to join us in taking on this fundraising challenge. Parallel Windsor is a festival of inclusivity with challenge events for all ages, health conditions and abilities.

Parallel's innovative SuperSensory 1K, empowers participants with profound and multiple learning disabilities to exercise their senses over a series of challenges such as engaging with sound, taste, touch, and smell. Walk, push or run – 'Start Together, Finish Whenever'!

Sound like something you can get behind? Visit our website to find out more: beyondautism.org.uk/parallel-supersensory-1k/.

Beyond25 stakeholder consultation

As we enter the third month of our Beyond25 Stakeholder Consultation we wanted to thank parents and carers for your ongoing involvement and reiterate how important your opinions are to shaping our 2025-2030 strategy for the whole charity and the services we run. So far, parents have been our most engaged feedback group, and have shared some truly insightful responses.

If you haven't already, we encourage you to take a few moments to fill out our survey which touches on reducing placement breakdown, increasing employability among autistic adults, independence to live an ideal week and increased resilience and confidence in families: beyondautism.org.uk/stakeholder-consultation/. When answering, we'd like you to consider the big picture on these topics. What sort of world you would like your child to live in – and what steps you think need to happen in education and society for that to become a reality?

In the new year, we'll also be hosting parent focused events, providing a platform for open conversations with the opportunity to share your thoughts first-hand. While we're still in the planning phase, please reach out to consultation@beyondautism.org.uk to express your interest in joining one of these events.

Thank you again to those who have participated! We look forward to hearing your thoughts or seeing you at one of our upcoming events.

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We hope you have a wonderful festive break and look forward to seeing you in January!
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