



# SEND@

## SAINT AIDAN'S

### Church of England High School

Autumn Term 2023

#### Message from the SENDCo

Welcome to our first SEND at Saint Aidan's newsletter. It has been lovely to see all our students after the break and to hear all their tales of the summer. We have also welcomed our new Year 7 students; it is great getting to know them and seeing them settling into life at Saint Aidan's.

The aim of our termly newsletter is to share information about SEND at Saint Aidan's.

We will be introducing you to members of the Learning Support Team in each issue, and it seems only fair that as one of the newest members of the team, I go first! Even though I say I am one of the newest members of the team, I have worked at Saint Aidan's since 2006, when I started as a Teaching Assistant, so I have in fact come full circle. I am an English Teacher, and have also been a Head of Year for the last 7 years. I have to say, I am delighted to be working with the Learning Support Team again and look forward to helping our students with SEND achieve their potential.

In each edition, we will also have a Condition Corner where we explain how we support specific needs both in and out of the classroom. Extra-curricular activities will also be in the spotlight in each issue.

#### Mrs Helen Cross, SENDCo

Helen-Cross@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

#### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 5th October:	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday 19th October:	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Tuesday 7th November:	Careers Fair
Friday 10th November:	Key Stage 3 Progress Reports out
Thursday 30th November:	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thursday 7th December:	Year 9 Options Evening
Tuesday 19th December:	Year 7 Carol Concert
Thursday 11th January:	Year 9 Parents' Evening

#### Meet the



**Helen Cross, SENDCo**

#### Favourite Subject:

Of course I have to say English! I simply love it. Language is such a powerful tool and it is great seeing students learn to appreciate this.

#### Hobbies and Hidden Talents:

I enjoy going to the gym, though I never thought I'd say that 3 years ago! Actually, when I say 'enjoy', that is probably a stretch, but I do enjoy the feeling once I've finished! I train with a great bunch of people and have made some great friends since I joined.

I also love nothing better than a walk with my two-year-old Labrador, Polly.

As for hidden talents, I'm not sure I can really claim any. That said, I did do a good line in balloon models at Open Evening this year!

*Aspire & Believe & Succeed*

# Condition Corner: Dyslexia

## What is dyslexia?

*'Dyslexia is a learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills. Dyslexia is actually about information processing. Dyslexic people may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact on other areas such as organisational skills.'* (The British Dyslexia Association)

## How do we support students with dyslexia at Saint Aidan's?

1. Depending on each student's area of need, teachers may use a range of strategies to help them, for example:
  - adapted worksheets
  - key word lists
  - checklists
  - visual aids
  - teaching memory strategies
2. Students may also receive support within the classroom from a teaching assistant.
3. Students may be asked to word process longer writing tasks.
4. Students may be invited to take part in an intervention programme, for example:
  - Lexonik
  - Nessy
  - Toe-by-Toe

It's important to remember that dyslexia it is a condition that each individual has to learn to manage. As such, promoting students to use strategies independently is our focus.

Yet, as you know, what we do at school is only half the story—what families do at home is vital. If your child has dyslexia and you would like more information about how to help, The British Dyslexia Association have lots of useful information: [How can I support my child? - British Dyslexia Association \(bdadyslexia.org.uk\)](https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/how-can-i-support-my-child/)

Finally, however difficult some aspects of learning may be for a child with dyslexia, it doesn't define them. Some of the most successful and inspiring people in history were dyslexic: Albert Einstein, John Lennon and Winston Churchill, to name a few!

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## Further SEND information:

Lancashire County Council's local offer for SEND:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/>

Lancashire County Council's SEND Newsletter:

[send-newsletter-autumn-2023.pdf \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/send-newsletter-autumn-2023.pdf)

# What's On...

Our Learning Support Team run daily lunchtime activities in the Learning Resource Centre. All sessions are open to all students.

Monday: **Crafts**

Tuesday: **Board Games**

Wednesday: **Cards and Dominoes**

Thursday: **Chess**

Friday: **Lego**

In addition, **Oasis** is open every break and lunchtime in the Achievement Room. Students are welcome to bring their lunch or just drop in for a chat.

A full range of the extra-curricular clubs and sports available can be found on our website:

[Extra Curricular - Saint Aidan's \(st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk\)](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/extra-curricular-saint-aidan-s-st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk)

## In Focus: Chess Club

Although promoting chess in schools made headlines over the summer, we have had a Chess Club at Saint Aidan's for as long as I can remember.

Alongside the fun and competitive element, chess also helps develop key skills: memory, planning and problem solving to name a few.

Mr Boughton, our Assistant SENDCo said, *'It's lovely to see the pupils engaged in the strategy of chess and the competitiveness between them. They teach each other special moves and help each other develop their skills.'*

Who knows, maybe we'll see some grandmasters of the future!

