



SEND@

SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

Spring Term 2024

Message from the SENDCo

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas—I know we certainly needed it after the long Autumn Term. It's nice now to be on the other side, welcoming the lengthening days and the early signs that spring is on its way.

As you know, in each edition we meet a member of the Learning Support Team. This term it is Mr Boughton's turn. He is our Assistant SENDCo: the one who keeps all the cogs in our team turning and is an expert in all things 'SEND'. Additionally, this term's Condition Corner is particularly close to Mr Boughton's heart as it is focusing on dyspraxia.

Now our Year 7 students have settled in, we are all looking forward to a productive spring term watching all our students blossom.

Mrs Helen Cross, SENDCo

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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-winter-2023.pdf](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/2023/12/send-newsletter-winter-2023.pdf)
([lancashire.gov.uk](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk))

Meet the



Michael Boughton,
Assistant SENDCo

Background:

I have been working in SEND for 20 years this year. I struggled through school, particularly primary school where I was labelled a lazy child; it wasn't until I was in Year 6 where one teacher noticed that I was genuinely struggling that I received the help and support I needed to succeed. Having dyspraxia I received support through the high school's SEND department and became known to them throughout my time. I kept in touch with the Support Team throughout my time at college and upon finishing college I was offered an opportunity to go back and work alongside those that had helped me so much! I continued working there and progressing in my career building my experience and expertise for 14 years before the opportunity arose to become ASEnDCo here at St Aidan's. This has given me the opportunity to help identify students like myself and put in place the support they need to succeed.

Favourite Subject:

Music - music is so emotive and the same song or piece of music can mean something different to each person. The power that music holds to carry you back in time and relive the memories stored in the smallest part of a tune can be amazing.

Hobbies and Hidden Talents:

With four children it is often difficult to find time for hobbies of my own. I enjoy weekends at the caravan with my family, particularly walking around the Lake District and the nature reserves. I adore animals of any kind (except spiders!) and have had many different pets, including chinchillas and a hedgehog.

My not so hidden talent would probably link in with my love of music. I love to sing and have performed live in front of a sell-out audience of 1,400 people on Blackpool's North Pier.

Aspire & Believe & Succeed

Condition Corner: Dyspraxia

What is dyspraxia?

Dyspraxia is a condition affecting movement coordination. Imagine a "traffic jam" in the brain making it tricky for messages to reach the body. This can mean difficulties with tasks like tying shoelaces, catching a ball, or organising schoolwork.

In school, dyspraxia may impact handwriting, organisation and learning sequences. It's crucial to understand it's not about intelligence but a neurological challenge.

How do we support students with dyspraxia 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:
 - preferential seating in class
 - structured class routines
 - adapted worksheets
 - step-by-step instructions
 - 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 or use assistive technology to record their ideas.
4. Students may be invited to take part in an intervention programme, for example:
 - Handwriting Practice
 - Nessy Fingers (typing practice)
 - CogMed

As with anything, school is only part of the story. At home, encourage strategies like breaking tasks into smaller steps, using calendars and post-its to aid organisation or practising manual dexterity tasks regularly. More information can be found on the following website: [Home \(dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk\)](http://Home(dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk))

With the right help, young people with dyspraxia can navigate challenges, build confidence and thrive.

What's On...

Our Learning Support Team run daily lunchtime activities in the Learning Resource Centre.

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 \(st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk\)](http://Extra%20Curricular%20-%20Saint%20Aidan's%20(st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk))

In Focus: Sign Language Club

When: Tuesday 3 - 4pm

Where: Lecture Theatre



hello



name



what?

What do we do at Sign Language Club?

We usually start by practising the **alphabet**.

We learn how to **fingerspell** our name so that we can introduce ourselves!

Then we learn some **new signs**. For example, we have learnt signs for the days of the week and for colours. If it is a special time of year, we learn relevant signs, such as for Halloween or Christmas.

We **regularly revisit signs** to help us remember them.

Mrs. Tilbury gives us copies of some of the signs we learn and we keep them in a folder. There is hardly any reading or writing, but sometimes we have a **fingerspelling quiz** or **play a game**.

Who can come to Sign Language Club?

Everyone is welcome to come along!



welcome

Want a sneak peek?

Watch this 9 minute YouTube clip:- [Basic Greetings, Manners and Phrases in BSL for Beginners \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Basic%20Greetings,%20Manners%20and%20Phrases%20in%20BSL%20for%20Beginners)

