

# SEND@

## SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

Autumn Term 2024  
Issue 4

### Message from the SENDCo

After our long, if somewhat rainy, summer break, it's been lovely to be back in school welcoming our new Year 7 students in to the Saint Aidan's family. As I type this, I can't quite believe that we're already at the end of September! Our new students have already settled in well and have really got into the swing of life at secondary school.

As September is FASD Awareness Month, this is the focus of this term's Condition Corner [International FASD Day - National FASD](#). ADHD Awareness Month is also upon us in October with the theme this year: Awareness is Key! Read more about ADHD on page 7 in this term's LCC Newsletter: [SEND Newsletter Autumn 2024 \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](#).

We have one of our newer members of staff, Mrs Balch, making an appearance in Meet the Team. I say new but she's already been here a year and has also just got a promotion to Teaching Assistant Level 3 and Cover Supervisor—it just goes to show how much we value her and her ever positive outlook on life! The new role for Mrs Balch did come at a cost though, as Miss Tinsley has moved away from the Learning Support Department to the post of Biology Teacher. Although we all miss her, it's lovely to see her thriving in her new home of Biology Room 1—she's even introduced some stick insects, much to the delight of H1, her new form group.

This term's newsletter is actually a bumper edition as we also wanted to share what our Year 11 ASDAN students have been up to at Blackpool Zoo. No, they haven't been monkeying around—but they have been having a whale of a time learning how to be zookeepers! I have to say, I'm green with envy. I've tried to get Mr Boughton to share the job of taking them each week, but I got a firm 'Not a chance!' to my request!

Finally, I'd like to make you aware of some additional SEND events that we are adding to the calendar this year:

Year 8	SEND Coffee Morning	Tuesday 15th October, 9-10:30am
Year 9	SEND Support at Options Evening	Thursday 12th December (based in Achievement Room)
KS4	SEND Coffee Morning	Tuesday 21st January, 9-10:30am
Year 7	SEND Coffee Morning	Tuesday 11th February, 9-10:30am

During these events, there will be opportunity to meet some of the team and gather information about SEND support both in and out of school. More details will be sent home via Synergy prior to each event. Please add the relevant date to your diary—we hope to see lots of you there.

### Mrs Helen Cross, SENDCo

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

## What's On...

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

Monday: **Crafts**

Tuesday: **Chess**

Wednesday: **Uno and Dominoes**

Thursday: **Board Games**

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))



*Aspire & Believe & Succeed*

# Condition Corner: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

## What is FASD?

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) are a range of conditions that happen when a baby is exposed to alcohol during pregnancy. This can cause problems with learning, behaviour, and development. Early diagnosis and supportive interventions can help children with FASD reach their full potential. Further information can be found here: [What is FASD - National FASD](#)

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

As with all support at Saint Aidan's, we look at the individual's needs rather than simply focusing on the needs of the particular condition, something that is particularly important due to the range of needs seen in young people with FASD. Students with these conditions may also have an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) which also outlines specific provision needed.

## Some examples of support provided:

- Support between lessons and at break/lunch times, e.g. quiet, staffed spaces and clubs
- Preferential seating in lessons
- Smaller class sizes in set subjects
- Differentiated resources, e.g. checklists, chunked activities
- Use of visual resources
- Use of assistive technologies, e.g. typing, Read&Write software
- Targeted social skills work
- Targeted work around emotions and relationships
- Targeted TA support in lessons and/or during registration
- Intervention, e.g. Nesy, Lexonik, Registration Reading
- Possible access arrangements for exams at KS4

As with all educational needs at Saint Aidan's, specific strategies are regularly reviewed and updated and are shared with all relevant staff via Synergy.

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## Further SEND information:

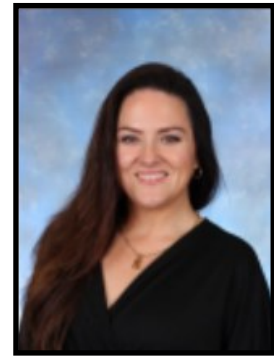
Lancashire County Council's local offer for SEND:

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

Lancashire County Council's SEND Newsletter:

[SEND Newsletter Autumn 2024 \(lancashire.gov.uk\)](#)

## Meet the



**Sarah Balch,**  
**Cover Supervisor/TA3**

## Background:

I have been working in the Saint Aidan's SEND Department for just over a year now. I love being part of such a great, inspiring team. Before transitioning to this field, I spent 15 years running my own business, which allowed me to interact with a wide range of people- a part of my career that I thoroughly enjoyed. In addition, I had the opportunity to volunteer with the Alzheimer's Society and work at a care home for underprivileged children, which gave me immense personal satisfaction and shaped my outlook on life.

## Favourite subject:

When it comes to subjects, English and Geography stand out for me. I have always been captivated by the power of creative writing. There's something magical about immersing yourself in books, exploring new perspectives and finding inspiration. Geography, on the other hand, feeds my curiosity about our planet. I am fascinated by the wonders of the Earth.

## Hobbies and Hidden Talents:

I love walking with my lovely dog, Vera, who is super cute! I recently tried wild camping, which I loved! There is something so peaceful about alone on the mountains, surrounded by wildlife. One hidden talent is that I have boxed in a white-collar event to raise money for a poorly young girl. I boxed for three rounds and won! We raised over £30,000 for her treatments. It was a memorable experience, and I was so proud of myself.



## In Focus:

# ASDAN Personal Development Programme

As part of our Year 11 ASDAN course we visited the zoo and completed a programme as zookeepers. We did lots of exciting things. Here is a diary entry from each of us with the highlights from each session.

### Day 1

Our very first session we had a tour of the zoo, ending at the giraffe house. We were shown how to select the right tools for cleaning the giraffes out and then asked to do this, with some help. Once they were clean we restocked their food and were shown to a platform where we got to hand feed them. Following this we went to the Amazonia exhibit and were given a pot of nectar to feed the rainbow lorikeets. This was amazing! They sat on our hands and used their straw like tongues to drink the nectar.



### Day 4

On our fourth visit we were asked to create some enrichment activities for a selection of animals. We chose to create things for the rainbow lorikeets, the mongooses and the meerkats. Once we had completed this we were allowed to go into the enclosures to set them up and watch the animals interact with our inventions. We walked around to the otters and created some enrichment for them too! They were so cute!

By Year 11 ASDAN group:  
Lacee, Carlos, Kai, Oscar and Hollie



### Day 3

During this visit we were shown a variety of animal skins, bones, fur etc. and had to guess what type of animal it was from. We then went for a walk around the zoo visiting different animals and learning about them. We went into the Penguin enclosure where the male penguins were sitting on and protecting the eggs. After this we went into the staff area of the elephant enclosure. When we returned to the classroom we were able to hold some of the small creatures.

### Day 5

We spent the morning shadowing Rebecca and the team as they completed the health checks on the elephants. They took us back to the giraffe house, where we had to select the correct tools and clean them out independently! Rebecca had to deliver the sea lion talk so we went along to watch this. After the talk they had a surprise for us as a thank you for our hard work—we got to go into the sea lion enclosure and have a cuddle with one of the sea lions!



### Day 2

We arrived at the zoo and were shown some different areas. We got to walk along the train tracks in the staff only area where we saw lots of animals up close whilst we hand fed them. We fed the wolves, the reindeer and zebras. Once we had finished this we were taken to the camel enclosure, we were shown which tools to use and asked to clean them out. Once we had finished we got the opportunity to hand feed them! They were amazing, as they were coming out of their indoor space for the first time that day, they ran out like excited puppies!

