



# SEND@

## SAINT AIDAN'S

Church of England High School

Spring Term 2025

### Message from the SENDCo

Welcome to our spring term SEND roundup. It's certainly been a busy term so far. We've hosted our Key Stage 4 and Year 7 SEND Coffee Mornings: the Key Stage 4 focus was how to support revision at home and the Year 7 focus was on establishing routines and independence, alongside demonstrations of our interventions and common homework platforms. It has been lovely to welcome parents into school in this way and we look forward to running them again next academic year.

After saying farewell to Mrs Andrews and wishing Mrs Wilford well on her move back to the USA last summer, we welcomed two new teaching assistants to the team in the autumn term: Mrs Murphy and Mr Whalley. When asked the best thing about Saint Aidan's, Mr Whalley said, *'I have been blown away by how warm and welcoming the Saint Aidan's family is! Even though I have only been here a few weeks, it feels like I have been here for years. The TA team, wider staff and students have made it so easy to settle in and I already feel at home here. Really looking forward to using my skills and experience to help as much as I can at Saint Aidan's!'* Mrs Murphy told us, *'Since I have started working at Saint Aidan's I have enjoyed working with my fellow TAs but mostly with the children I have been assigned to support: there are fake Scottish accents, Blooklet hacks and dry sense of humour which all make my job very entertaining! The school in general has a lovely community spirit, always promoting kindness and acceptance. It's a great place to work!'* In addition, we've also had the lowdown from one of our more seasoned staff members, Mrs Robinson, in this edition's 'Meet the Team' segment - can you believe that she claims to have no hidden talents! I'm not sure I believe her.

At present, we are currently revving up for Key Stage 4 exams. Form tutors are advising Year 10 and 11 students about revision timetables, and teachers are suggesting suitable revision activities for their subjects. Year 11 students will be encouraged to attend revision sessions in some subjects. Additionally, Year 11 Personal Development Day, 28th February, will have part of the day dedicated to improving revision skills.

Finally, we are looking forward to raising awareness in the coming months: we will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day and World Autism Awareness Day. We've got some exciting plans - see page 2 for more details. Let's just say, some of our activities will be illuminating!



**Mrs Helen Cross, SENDCo**

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## In Focus: Cookery Club

### What do we do at Cookery Club?

Each week we make a different dish. We usually choose the week before so we know it's something that everyone likes. We always make something that we don't have time to make in lesson and quite often it's a sweet treat.

### When is Cookery Club?

Cookery Club is in **T4** on a **Wednesday from 3.00 - 4.30pm**, though sometimes we finish a little later than that if we are having lots of fun!



### Who can come to Cookery Club?

Anyone can attend Cookery Club — all year groups are welcome. It could even be something that students do for the skill section of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

We would encourage students to just go along and give it a try — it's a great opportunity to make new friends and learn new skills.

### How do I sign up?

Students should let Mrs Rossall know they are planning to attend. Recipes are put on Synergy the week before.

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# Raising Awareness at Saint Aidan's

In our Summer Term Edition last year, Condition Corner had a dual focus on Down Syndrome and Autism. This term's edition is focusing on raising awareness of both conditions, including who it affects and how they are affected.

## World Down Syndrome Day—Friday 21st March 2025

Form N8 and Miss Smith are leading the World Down Syndrome Day activities. They are hosting an WSDS Interhouse Football Tournament for Years 7 and 8. More information will be sent to forms in the coming weeks. In celebration of the WSDS 'Lots of Socks' theme, there will be a 'Decorate a Sock' competition. There will be prizes for the winning entries and all entries will be used to decorate the Refectory and Hill View. Finally, some very exciting news: Miss Smith has arranged to 'Light Up The Tower' for WSDS on Friday 21st March. Local businesses have kindly sponsored the 'Light Up' and there will be more details about this in our next issue.

## World Autism Awareness Day—Wednesday 2nd April 2025

Form K7 and Mrs Rossall are celebrating the National Autism Society's 'Spectrum Colour' theme in their planned activities. We'll be getting our thinking caps on as they test our knowledge in their Spectrum Colour Interform Quiz. K7 are also holding a Spectrum Colour Tuck Shop on Non-Uniform Day.

## What else are we doing?

Non-Uniform Day is Thursday 3rd April. Alongside #lotsofsocks for World Down Syndrome Day, students can also wear their brightest spectrum of clothes for World Autism Awareness Week. Our '**Lots-of-Socks Spectrum Colour Non-Uniform Day**' will raise funds for both The National Autistic Society and Down Syndrome UK. In addition, our form worship on each week will aim to explain the condition and try to show what living with the condition is like, the positives as well as the challenges.

There will be an update on all our exciting activities in our summer newsletter.

## 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 most recent SEND Newsletter:

[send-newsletter-winter-2024.pdf](https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/send-newsletter-winter-2024.pdf)

## Meet the



**Sharon Robinson,  
Cover Supervisor/TA**



## Background

Before joining Saint Aidan's, I worked in the Civil Service for 25 years doing a variety of roles from project work, accounting to writing appeals. After leaving the Civil Service, I retrained as a Child Minder and was a registered foster carer for 2 years. After being around people for 25 years, I found working at home quite lonely, so I applied for a job at Saint Aidan's in the kitchen. I worked there for approximately 4 years before I applied for a TA2 role. I've now been a TA2 for 3 years and love helping students that need that extra support. Having a daughter who is visually impaired and a son that has dyslexia and dyscalculia, I have first hand experience in how disabilities and extra needs can affect your confidence, your outlook and the difficulties it can cause.

## Favourite Subject

English, hands down! I find the English language fascinating! Why do we spell words like that? What is their origin? What is the actual meaning behind that saying? Why do we have silent letters?! I love it all. I love the fact that we can paint a vivid image with words, we can get across strong emotions, all with words. A well written piece can make you cry, laugh and inspire you.

## Hobbie and Hidden Talents

If you couldn't have guessed by now, I love reading. If I could spend every winter day or evening in front of a real fire just reading, I'd be a very happy lady. I also love gardening. Seeing beautiful plants emerge from the soil from a little seed you planted, always amazes me. I'm also a big animal lover, especially cats. One day, I'd loved to be linked to a cat rescue, or two, and foster all the cats that no one else wants. I also adore bees. My garden has many bee and bug hotels as well as bird houses. Nature is so peaceful and healing and as I get older, this is what I crave. As for any hidden talents I may have....well, that is a question. I'm not aware of any but probably the people who know me best are better placed to answer that question.

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