



Message from Amanda Appleby Payne – Head Teacher

Dear Parents, Grandparents and Carers,

Hello everyone,

We are coming to the end of our Autumn Term and our Christmas Festivities. We are looking forward to welcoming you in for our Class Activity sessions before the term ends.

I have lots of news for you in this terms newsletter as we continue in our journey together.

WEBSITE NEWS!

I am delighted to inform you that we now have a new website which is now live. We are continuing to add to it. I would like you to have a look and then if you could do me any comments both positive and also if there is anything on there you would like added.

You will notice that we have made some changes to the Secondary Class Names. We feel that it is time to move forwards in how we manage our secondary pathways and the numbers appear to have given the idea that there is a hierarchy where both parents and pupils seem to strive towards reaching Pathway 4. This is not the case. Our classes are created as cohorts in order to meet individual needs and to help us deliver bespoke timetables to our individual pupils. Each class has a range of needs and pupils work at a variety of levels. Each pupil is allocated to the class where we feel their holistic needs can be met.

We decided on tree names as this supports our vision of growth and preparation into Adulthood.

Pathway 1 – Beech, Pathway 2 – Maple, Pathway 3 – Oak, Pathway 4 - Willow

I really hope that you enjoy exploring the website and your child's class page and I look forward to your feedback.

STAFF UPDATES

There will be a few changes in the new year due to some staff leaving for new settings.

We would like to say farewell to Mr Williams – Post 16 Lead who is leaving for pastures new. We wish him every success and happiness in his new job and thank him for his time with us at Halesbury.

The Post 16 team remains the same with Mrs Lynch and Mrs Tromans for the rest of the academic year ensuring consistency for our young adults.

Mr Fowkes – Teaching Assistant, Emerald Class, also departs at the end of this term, also leaving for a new school role. We would like to wish him every success and thank him for his contributions to Halesbury in the time he has been with us.

Mr Mbaa – Teaching Assistant, leaves to pursue an alternative setting as part of his professional development we also thank him for his contributions and wish him every success and happiness.

Mrs Parker – Class Teacher Sapphire Class, leaves us today to begin her Maternity Leave. We very much look forward to welcoming her baby to the Halesbury extended family and wish her and Mr Parker our very best wishes and good luck as they begin Parenthood.

We would like to welcome our 3 new Lunch Time Supervisors: -

Amy Murphy – Meerkat Class, Shaima Awadh – Ruby Class and Sarah O'Driscoll – Jade Class

New Member of the Team – Kate Russell Schools Liaison Young Persons Officer

Kate is a police officer whose role is to support Dudley Special School pupils. We were introduced to her recently and we are designing a programme of support for our Secondary aged pupils on a variety of topics that both school and parents are struggling with in this current climate.

Kate will be in school on Wednesdays every fortnight. Part of her work will be delivering sessions to the pupils on topics such as Social media use and gaming and Misogyny. We will be working together to create a programme of support for our young people to give them as much information as possible in support of our RSHE curriculum. Kate will be based in our Family Outreach room and work alongside myself and our pastoral team and class staff. She will also provide 1:1 sessions for any pupils we feel need support as well as small group sessions. She will also be available for any pupils to 'pop in' to chat to her if they would like to.

The first session will be on Wednesday 10th December on Social Media Use

Wednesday 7th January session - Misogyny

I feel that Kate will be a great addition to our Halesbury Team to support us all.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

EXCITING NEWS!!

As a result of the letters we sent out to parents/relatives who then approached the companies that they work for we have been contacted by Wesleyan who have donated the full amount of £15,500.

As a result, we have reached our fundraising target for our new School Minibus. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED AND HELPED IN THIS TEAM EFFORT. This means that our contribution to Sunshine Buses has been processed and they will now find a sponsor to contribute the remaining amount. Following this we will receive news of when to expect our new minibus.

As always, we continue to strive for improvements and would now like to begin a further fundraiser for equipment for a Sensory Integration Room. Once the new build is complete we will be able to utilise one of our rooms in the main building to create a space for our Private Occupational and Speech Therapists to work in alongside our staff, using specialist equipment to support our pupil's sensory integration needs. I am so excited about this, as it was part of our original request for the new build, but it took the budget over 3 Million so it had to be taken out of the plan. However, with careful consideration of the use of our building we can now create this provision in our existing building which is very much needed.

We will be setting up a new Just Giving Page to support this next Fund Raiser

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR PHOTOS!

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and our best wishes for the New Year!



School contact details
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Diary Dates: -

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Thursday 11th December – National Christmas Jumper Day and fund raiser for Christmas Raffle

Wednesday 17th December – Christmas Dinner Day (2nd Christmas Jumper Day)

Wednesday 17th December - Special School Carol Concert at Dudley Town Hall

Monday 15th – Friday 19th December – CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY WEEK

Friday 19th December – BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

SPRING TERM 2026

Monday 5th January 2026 – STAFF INSET DAY

Tuesday 6th January 2026 – PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

Building Progress

The new build is on track to be completed by Easter 2026. We are planning to move across gradually in the Summer Term.

During the Summer Holidays of 2026 the mobile classrooms will be decommissioned and removed. The area left will be made good for our next project. – You will have to wait for the next exciting instalment!

The biodiversity improvements will include the planting of turf and 30 trees which will enhance our outdoor spaces.

We are currently at the stage where we are choosing colour schemes for the build, where we hope to bring the outside in using natural colours of greens and neutrals.

Please see latest photos below now the scaffolding has been removed and some plastering completed.



