

Olympus Newsletter

March 2024



Spring is on its way!

As the sun begins to stay out a little longer and the playground is a bit drier, our students start to become more active. This half term it has been great to see the football and basketball games resuming.

Some Pathways and School students are getting fit for the summer and very much enjoying their gym visits.

Tony and the DT class have been adding more hand-built furniture to our polytunnels. The first plants have been sown.

We seem to have fitted so much into a short half term with an author visit, neurodiversity celebration week, Emmanuel's bench unveiling, World Book Day and so much more.

We are looking forward to the summer term and the longer days. We wish all our students and their families a happy Easter break.

Christina Russell - Head Teacher

Contact: christina.russell@horizoncare.co.uk

Congratulations Krystal

Krystal our English teacher went on maternity leave at the start of this half term, and we are pleased to announce that she gave birth to a baby boy on Thursday 22nd February.

We wish the family well and look forward to seeing lots of photos.



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DT class build more planters and benches

Our DT students with their teacher Tony have continued to excel at building the furniture and planters for our polytunnels.

We now have two potting tables and a seed tray rack for one polytunnel and the other has low growing planters for taller plants.



A big thank you to our DT teacher Tony and all the students.

The maintenance team have taken photos to show other Horizon schools what is possible.



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Author Visit to Olympus

Our celebrations for World Book Day started on Wednesday 28th February with an author visit. We were really pleased to welcome Richy K. Chandler to Olympus to share his love for story writing. Richy is an author and illustrator of comics and graphic novels, and he provided the students with an assembly and workshops throughout this day.

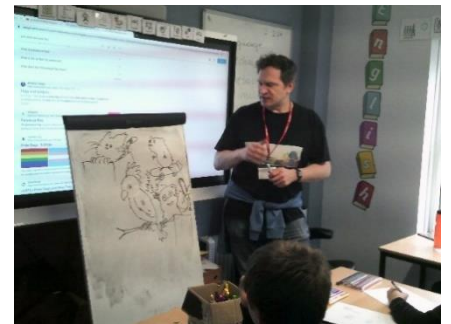
The students were given the opportunity to learn how Richy started his career. He shared some of the work he has created and how he puts his ideas together.



During the sessions, he showed the students how to draw characters, formulate ideas and they all produced their own comics. The students thoroughly enjoyed this visit and it has inspired them to develop their own characters and comics.



Thanks
Richy!



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World Book Day

At Olympus we celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters. During the day, the students were transported into different worlds while visiting an online escape room. They all had the opportunity to take part in our World Book Day quiz and developed ideas to promote reading in school.



Dates for your Diary

15th April - Staff Inset Day

16th April - Students return to school

6th May - May Bank Holiday

24th May - Last day of ½ term (finish normal time)

3rd June - Students return to school

24th July - Last day of term (finish 12.30pm)



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Emmanuel's Bench

In January we shared the very sad news that our Pathways student Emmanuel had died suddenly. He was an extremely popular young man with students and staff at Pathways, who have spent the term supporting one another.

Through great teamwork and empathy, students who participate in DT from Olympus Pathways and Bright Minds Creative Academy have created a beautiful bench in Emmanuel's memory that now sits outside our Pathways building. The unveiling was attended by Emmanuel's family, plus all staff and students from Pathways and Emmanuel's previous school, Bright Minds Creative Academy.

Although nothing and no one will ever replace our memories of E-man, his bench provides us with some solidarity and peace that a small part of him remains with us.

The Pathways Staff Team



Eco - Schools

Spring means we start planting. We have weeded the planting areas and some potatoes are already beginning to shoot from the seeded ones from last year's crop.

Alfie in year 7 has planted two trays of lettuces which will need thinning out soon. We will keep them growing in our polytunnels so that the slugs do not get to them and Erica can use them for salads.

More to cultivate soon!



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Student Council Pathways

Student council has been working on making Olympus Pathways an environmentally friendly school by reducing plastic waste and planting a tree on Quakers premises.

We have included working an allotment at the school site in Sanderstead so that we can learn to grow our own fruit and veg and be able to sustain it in our own daily cooking in Pathways.

Student council has been talking about our spacing issues by investing and looking at student lockers, for students to put their Chromebooks and personal belongings in. Our Reading Ambassador has been looking at getting a new bookshelf for our reading corner.

We have also been looking at a water cooler to reduce our plastic footprint, also looking into personalised water bottles for students to carry around with them to stay hydrated during the coming hot days.

We have been incorporating neurodiversity week into our lessons and appreciating all our neurodivergent students in school.

Not to forget we have included staff certificates into assembly so we can learn to appreciate everything that they do for our students on a daily basis.

This term we have made lots of changes and we will be embracing more change in the terms to come.

Mikey B

Celebrating Success

As part of our assemblies each week we celebrate our students' successes through certificates and awards.

At school we have KS3 and KS4 students of the week, ½ term and term. The certificates this ½ term went to

22/2 – Simba & Dilaxan

1/3 - George & Kyrel

8/3 – Kayden & Amelie

15/3 – Alfie & Kyrel

22/3 – George & Lionel

Students of the term at school were George & Dilaxan.

At Pathways the weekly awards are given for Student of the Week and Work of the Week. The awards this ½ term went to

1/3 - Kain & Simeon

8/3 – Mikey & Daniel W

15/3 – Daniel W & Courtney

Congratulations to all the students!



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Neurodiversity Week at Olympus

At school and Pathways, we celebrated Neurodiversity Week from 18-24th March across different areas of the curriculum. There were lots of discussions about how our brain wiring influences how each of us thinks, moves, processes information, and communicates. At Olympus, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia, Autism, ADHD, and other alternative thinking styles are all referred to as neurodiversity.



Labels aside, neurodiversity is about accepting people with diverse ways of thinking. Different viewpoints are important when working with our students, trying new things, and adapting our way of

working is crucial to help them succeed.

We had some focused conversations about different conditions during tutor times, debates about what makes us all different and unique in PSHE, with some wonderful posters created representing our students. In Maths our students accessed Maths resources specifically designed for Neurodivergent students to ease their understanding of concepts and methods and finally finished our week off with a lovely assembly about how we can support everyone's differences and individuality.



All the work and contributions will be displayed in our Neurodiversity Display ready for when the students return for the Summer Term, where we will

continue to embed what makes us all different but part of the Olympus community.

Stephanie Mullinder - SENCO



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Inspiring

We have 4 Horizon values.

We are sharing our Inspiring value in this Newsletter.



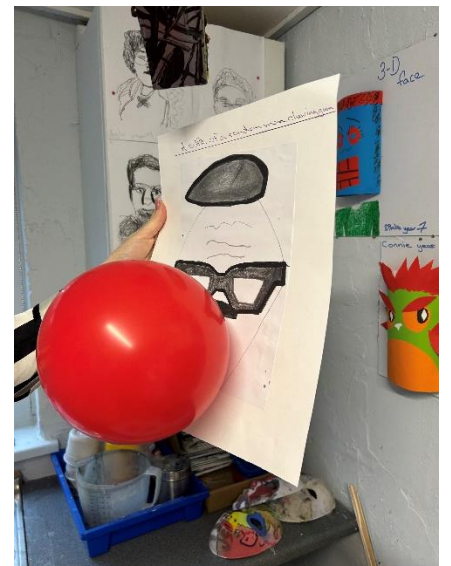
The definition of inspiring is exciting and encouraging you to do or feel something. Many of our young people have people that inspire them as do we. Some of you may have been inspired by David Beckham who has OCD, others by actors such as Dan Akroyd (Tourette Syndrome), Sir Anthony Hopkins (ASD), Daryl Hannah (ASD).

The younger generation may be inspired by Plumbella (You Tuber with ASD), Billie Eilish (Singer, Tourette Syndrome), Emma Watson (Hermione & Actor, ADHD), Tom Holland (Actor & Spiderman, Dyslexia), Justin Timberlake (Musician, OCD) or Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter & Actor, Dyspraxia) or be keen to make money like Elon Musk (TESLA and X, ASD).

What is clear is a label does not define someone or their success in life and many people who are neurodivergent are our inspiration.

I am inspired daily by our young people and the little gems that they speak when talking about each other in such a compassionate way. How quick they are with their humour. How amazing their artwork or music making is, so creative. As a school we need to help them break down the barriers and let them inspire us and future generations.

Some inspiring work!



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