

Dear Parents/Carers,

The end of a school year always brings mixed feelings - I think we all look forward to the long Summer holidays, but the last few weeks of term are always a busy and rather emotional time! Some of our young people find the transition from school to holiday and back again quite challenging, so please take the time to read the helpful sheet at the end of this newsletter about helping children cope with change.

On a positive note, it's been fantastic to reflect on the progress we've made as a school; on the next page you'll see a 'You Said - We Did' chart which shows some of the actions we've taken this term following feedback from learners. It's also great to see the great strides all of our students have made throughout the year. While it's sad to say goodbye to some of our older students, it is incredibly rewarding to see them passing exams and moving into the wider world of mainstream school / further education, taking the next steps towards adult life.

I'd like to say a huge thank-you to all the parents and carers who have supported us throughout the school year, as well as to staff for their hard work and dedication, and of course to all of our amazing young people, who always manage to remind us that what really matters is helping them be the best they can be.

We're looking forward to welcoming current and new learners in September, for what promises to be a fabulous year full of exciting adventures, including great new opportunities for play and for learning. Until then, take care, and have a lovely Summer break!

Pete Jenkins, Executive Principal



NEW STARTERS



We welcomed
the following
new staff to the
school:

Paul Curtis
Maintenance Assistant



We've been creating relaxing and beautiful harbour areas in school this term, with more planned over the Summer!

Life Chance
TRUST

Our new charity is now up and running, aiming to support young people beyond the age of 16. Chris Keeling-Rowe, Head of the Trust, says 'This is fantastic news for SfiT learners and other young people affected by trauma, who will be able to help shape the work of the charity, apply for a place on a specialist mentor and coaching programme, and learn skills alongside their peers.' Discover more at: <https://lifechance.org.uk/trust/>

We'll share plans for the Trust in the Autumn, but meanwhile... let's get started! If you use [this link to register](#) with EasyFundraising and then earn £5 for the Trust through your usual online shopping over the next 12 months, an extra £5 will be donated to the Trust as a matching donation! We're also an Amazon Smile charity so you can select Life Chance Trust in your account settings, and shop through smile.amazon.co.uk: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1199491-0>



BEING THE BEST WE CAN BE!

Student Feedback & Actions

	What you said...	What we've done so far...
School Environment	Dart Class is too hot	A new fan has been installed in Dart Class.
	Too many people are walking into Tamar Classroom.	There is now a lock on Tamar Class door.
	We would like more things to do in our outdoor space.	There are plans to develop outdoor areas at both sites – watch this space!
Student Wellbeing	Student behaviour impacts on everyone in the school.	Our new behaviour policy is being developed with staff and students and will be shared with you in the new academic year.
	Students need more understanding & support around why and how staff may support them safely when they are disregulated.	From September, relational safety leads (George & Pete B) plus SENDCo Emma B will support staff & students around individual relational support plans.
Curriculum	We'd like a more planned and interesting curriculum with inspiring things like music.	From September, Music, PE and Science will be on the new timetable!
	We'd like more school trips.	We've now got dedicated staff members specially trained to support off-site activities (Hannah O and Jake).
	Tables and chairs are not the right height or are uncomfortable.	Our Occupational Therapist is completing a review of school equipment.
	We'd like more support with what happens at the end of school (exams and careers).	Gemma Adams (Parrett) will lead on careers guidance from September.
Staff	There's not enough staff at lunch time on both sites.	The timetable in September means lunch time cover will get extra support from MDT & Leadership Team.
Relationships with Others	We'd like to know more about the school's policy on bullying.	Student council to review the current Anti-Bullying Policy.
Other	We'd like more animals in school.	We now have two dogs attending school – Ebba and Rufus.

Thanks to our Student Council for providing us with feedback to help us make our school even more AMAZING!!!!

A MESSAGE FROM LEWIS HARBEN



Wow, doesn't time fly! It seems like just yesterday that we were reflecting on the Spring Term, but here we are in the final week of the school year.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for your ever-present, relentless support of our pupils and our school, the difference that your support makes cannot be overstated. Next, I'd like to congratulate each and every one of our

pupils – there have been so many success stories this year that I cannot cover them all, but I'd like to name a few.

Well done to one of our students for achieving the required qualifications in Year 11 to enrol at Bicton College in September. Congratulations, we're all so excited to see you continue to excel in the next chapter of your life.

Reading continues its role at the centre of our school curriculum; I've loved witnessing students of all ages discover the magic of stories in school, online and even making the most of our local library.

Another highlight for me from this academic year has to be the relationships that have formed between students and their peers as well as between students and the staff that support them. I'm extremely proud of the everyday moments of kindness, when students demonstrate empathy and consideration of others, developing trust in those around them.

Now we look forward with excited anticipation for the opportunities that a new academic year affords, but first I hope that the sunny weather continues so that we can all enjoy a glorious summer!

Stay safe and have a lovely time, we look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in September.



DEER CLASS

This half-term in Deer we have been making the most of the sunshine and warm weather and spending lots of time outside doing various activities.

We have been out on bike rides at Cockington, Haldon Forest and Dawlish Warren, also kayaking at Decoy Lake.

Learning has been taking place outside, with lots of maths and reading being done in the sunshine, as well as up trees that we have found to climb!

Simply Great Media have been fantastic in teaching us how to code and create our own video games.

We can't wait for our visits to Paignton Zoo, to film our digital fact files about animals, and also our trip to Woodlands!

Thank you so much for your support this year, I hope you all enjoy a well earned Summer break!



TAW CLASS

What an action-packed year it has been for the boys in Taw class. They have continued to access our local community and improve their Life Skills in town and further afield in Torbay, making the most of the beautiful weather we have experienced.

In school they have been brushing up their multiplication skills on TTRockstars and hitting their daily targets, this has enabled them to have a firm foundation for the topic of Area and Volume. In English, the focus has been on how to answer exam style questions. We have also focused on CV writing skills and began looking at careers.

This term we have also celebrated exam success and said a HUGE congratulations and goodbye to our year 11 student who passed all his exams and has successfully got into his chosen post-16 college for September. The whole school participated in the day's activities which included: food, party games, Bubble Waffles and also a disco in the hall.

We wish him all the success in the future and look forward to catching up on his progress.

Have a great summer!



TAMAR CLASS

Tamar have had a great end to the summer term. We have been enjoying the sunshine and making the most of being outdoors in our forest school and the local area - including a morning spent kayaking on the lake at Decoy!

We also enjoyed watching our caterpillars grow into butterflies before releasing them in the garden. I'm so proud of everything we have achieved this year and I wish the children all the best as they move on to their new classes in September.

Have a great summer holiday everyone!

AXE CLASS

Axe have had an extremely productive term and have loved learning about Space and our Solar System. We have also made rockets and astronauts which was great fun. We had a visit from our wonderful arts and crafts lead from Place House and made some superb wooden boats.

Aside from this we have learned all about weights and measures in maths and have devised some fantastic works of fiction in English. I have been really impressed with their application and enthusiasm all term and hope that they have a superb summer break - they certainly deserve it!

It has been a pleasure to have been their teacher for the last year and I wish them the best of luck in the future as I head back to university for a year - I must be crazy!

The progress they have all made is highly commendable, keep up the great work Axe!



EXE CLASS

Exe have taken full advantage of the glorious sunshine this term. In Forest School, they have continued to improve their culinary skills and outdoor skills. We all enjoyed a paella which was delicious and deserves a mention in this edition of the newsletter!

In Social Hub, Exe have continued to make lovely food and have been refining their skills. Some of our students are now making chicken fried rice and sausage rolls at home to bring in for their lunch; all skills taught in our weekly catering sessions. These are real life, practical skills being put to good use, helping with confidence, resilience, and independence.

In a contrast from last term, students have been attempting to repair some cars in Motor Mechanics, they have also gone kayaking this term as we continue to provide our students with lots of memorable experiences and useful skills.

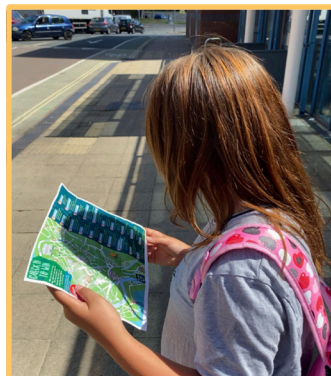


PLYM CLASS

This term Plym have been continuing to enjoy their time within the community. They have been learning new skills and understanding how they fit in with the world around us.

All Plym students have also been lucky enough to access Equafinity- a horse based therapy in Exeter. They work really hard when they are there and enjoy spending time with the horses- Pona, Sparky and Spirit- as well as spending time with Scout the dog.

They have all worked so hard and engaged amazingly with everything that they've done!



ASHBURTON

A MESSAGE FROM LUCY GRELEN



And just like that, we are at the end of the academic year - and what a year it has been! We have a transformed forest school and built some new outside play equipment. We have started to make a lovely garden where we grow vegetables, and we have developed our food technology and art sessions with the help of Mikki and Tessa. Pete and Paul have worked hard throughout the year to transform our outside area and the children spend a lot of time benefitting from this provision and playing together.

Jake has run kayaking sessions at Decoy Park throughout this half term, the students have loved taking part in this new activity. We have spent a lot of time off site, walking, swimming and going on trips, enjoying the lovely sunny weather. Our older students have completed some more exams and we are so proud of them for their achievements.

Our food technology has really developed this year. Mikki has been leading these sessions with students, either 1:1 or as a class. The students have really enjoyed cooking different meals and learning about growing food and then cooking it. They have particularly enjoyed wearing our new embroidered chef jackets.

We have finally managed to organise a parents evening which is the first one since COVID-19 hit us over 2 years ago. It was so lovely to see so many of you and was nice for you to see our lovely school and meet your child's current and new teacher. We are really excited to be back in September with all the positive changes and we hope you have a lovely, relaxing summer holiday.

Lucy GRENEN and the Place House Team



TEIGN CLASS

Teign have had a fantastic term with lots of trips, art and food tech! Our topic has been 'Through the decades' where we have been looking at some of the key moments in history! This includes the Apollo 11 moon landing where each student wrote an amazing newspaper report using the 5 W's in their writing.

We've had some exciting trips including Model Village and the Donkey Sanctuary. During our Donkey Sanctuary visit we found out lots of new facts about donkeys and the best part was getting to stroke them!

Finally, at the end of this term we say goodbye to our amazing teacher Sarah! She has been the most generous, kind and funny teacher and has helped all the students achieve their best potential. We will miss her and wish her the best of luck and happiness in her travels!



ARTS & CRAFTS

This term we've made some fabulous craft items, and have celebrated Art Week with special projects at both school, including these gorgeous driftwood boats and pebble pictures!



PARRETT CLASS

Well done Parrett! We have had such a fantastic summer term. Your efforts in your learning have been so incredible and your friendship-making and team-building has been so special to see as your social skills progress!

We have been doing some excellent photography learning with Alice, as well as some brilliant geography, Forest school first aid training, super star maths learning, beautiful art work and class days out and about!

Parrett class have just been fantastic and it has been so amazing to watch you all work so hard and mature so well. We are all so proud of everything you've each individually achieved, as well as lots of great class achievements. Go Parrett! YOU ARE ALL FANTASTIC!



TAVY CLASS

It's been a very artistic time for Tavy - we've especially enjoyed art week with Tess and created some fantastic pebble art! Throughout the term, some of our students have also worked with Tess on amazing longer-term projects, including refurbishing old chairs to a chosen theme and making new cushions for them. The finished results are really outstanding!



ERME CLASS

For Topic, we looked at Picasso and then the class each created a section of one of his pictures. After it was all done we put the puzzle together and it looks pretty close to the original!

In PSHE children made some cards and memory games for a care home.

For our Trip, we went to Paignton Zoo. The children had a great time - we got to see so many animals, and enjoyed spending time together before our new classes in September!



DART CLASS

This term Dart class have been looking at algebra in maths which all the boys have been amazing at! They have also completed their functional skills speaking, listening and communication exam which they have all passed. Very proud of you boys!

Outside of school we went kayaking with Jake and we all had lots of fun, along with some days at the beach now it is getting hotter. The boys have also continued their lifeguarding qualification on Thursdays in their swimming lessons with Paul Blake. Well done this term boys, we are super excited for next year!

On a bittersweet note, Charlie Bishop is leaving us at the end of this school year. We are extremely proud of Charlie's progress over the last 3 years at SfiT and we are delighted to announce that he will be joining a year 10 class at a mainstream school. Charlie – you have grown into a reflective, kind and caring person and you will leave a huge hole in Dart class.

I am extremely excited for a fresh new year in September, and am looking forward to supporting all of the boys with their transition to post – 16. We are especially looking forward to work experience! Have a great Summer everyone.



FOREST SCHOOL

What a great term we've had out in the forest. This term we've been concentrating on getting our site as fun and forest-school friendly as possible. This has involved lots of sawing, hammering, cementing, digging, flattening, sanding and painting. It's looking really great out there and I'm so glad I have so many eager helpers.

Obviously, with all of that hard work, we've had to make sure there's plenty of tasty food so we've cooked fry ups, cassoulet, kebabs, Spanish eggs and lots more. Delicious!

As well as all this hard work, there's been plenty of fun; 'cleaning' my shed, loads of role play, mud kitchen, chilling in the hammock and lots of silly games. Thanks for a great year College House!



Hi - I'm Katie, the play coordinator for SfiT and I love being outside. My days are spent in Forest School with students at College House and we have loads of adventures.

I'm really excited about next year because I will be able to really take hold of my role, encouraging our students to love play!



PLAY AT SFIT

The benefits of play are broad; it energises us, eases our burdens, renews our natural sense of optimism, enlivens us, and opens us up to new possibilities. Here at SfiT, we know how important play is and we are preparing our site for an exciting transformation to make play become part of our day-to-day routine for our students.

Several years ago, an artist and lecturer called Simon Nicholson noted that it was not fair that adults get to have all the fun designing and creating playgrounds while children must use them as they are. That is why we are creating spaces that can be used in all sorts of exciting ways.

To do this well, we want to have everything ready for the grand launch in September. The play we are encouraging can be a whole variety of things such as making a stage area from pallets to perform on, creating dens and hideouts to play in, using old bits of 'scrap' (tyres, cardboard boxes, scraps of materials and tubes) to make go karts, water walls or even to make an obstacle course for others to play with.

Part of this process is collecting all the resources that we need and we are hoping that our brilliant families will help us collect some of these supplies:

- Various materials/nets/tarpaulins
- Various plastic containers/tubes/pipes
- Digging equipment
- Gardening supplies
- Camping equipment
- Old clothes/work gear/briefcases/suitcases/handbags
- Old computer/TV parts
- Cardboard boxes of all sizes and shapes

Thanks in advance for your support - we'll keep you updated with play at SfiT - so watch this space!



A MESSAGE FROM JULES SANDERS



As this academic year draws to a close, I and my colleagues from the multi disciplinary team would like to wish our students a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Fay Hooper, our Family Support Worker, has created a very helpful list of provisions that are on offer throughout the summer holidays, which you should have seen on Class DoJo. Please do give us feedback concerning these provisions to help us to ensure that what we share is beneficial. If you are aware of anything else that is on offer that has not been shared please do let us know so that we can share with the rest of our school community.

As we say goodbye to some students who have completed their time at SfIT we would like to wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. We are also delighted to have five new students who will be joining us when we return in September. We hope they have a fantastic time meeting their classes at our transition day on July 20th and we very much look forward to our staff being able to get to know and support them. We extend a very warm welcome to Maisie, Corey, Max, Caleb, Finley and Rio.

Transitions can, however, be an unsettling time for our young people and the change of routine and inevitable losses and separations can bring a mixture of feelings. Please see the information sheet (on the next page) which may be a source of support and practical strategies.

TEA & TALK

Save the date for our next session, which will be on Thursday 13th October!

We are delighted to report that Megan Hornsby, our Mental Health Practitioner, has had a slight change of role which is more fitting with what she actually offers our school community. Megan has written a short piece which explains this change which we would like to share with you:

“Hello all! Most of you will know me but those of you who don’t, I have been the Mental Health Practitioner here at School for Inspiring Talents for the past 2.5 years. In that time, I have had the pleasure of working with lots of our amazing students and staff. As the role has developed, I have been taking a lead in supporting the whole school community to prioritise mental health and emotional wellbeing and we have made great progress which I’m really proud of.



We have decided that one way to further recognise the vitally important place that mental health and wellbeing has in our school community is to rename my role to Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead. This reflects my additional responsibilities as the mental health champion for the school. In practice, I will be continuing my support of students on a one to one basis and my support for the whole school community’s mental health needs. I will also be working alongside our school staff and the Senior Leadership Team to drive forward our plans for mental health and wellbeing throughout the next academic year and beyond.”

As always, we very much welcome any ideas or thoughts you have on ways in which we can further support mental health across the school community, so please don’t hesitate to get in touch on:

info@sfit.org.uk

Transitions

Vulnerable children will be feeling deeply frightened by the end and the start of the school year. The change of routine and the inevitable losses and separations bring back old feelings of abandonment and threat. It's a challenging time for everyone – children and adults alike!

Here are some of our favourite transition top tips for parents/carers and for teachers:



- It's useful for adults to emotionally prepare themselves for the 'transition storm' that is about to begin. Put your seatbelt on and hold tight! The child needs you to be grounded.
- Remind yourself that the child's behaviour is a sign of their inside pain, and they need you to see through the behaviour to help them feel safe, secure and loved.
- Digging down past behaviours to the inside pain, can be hard and tiring work. Take good care of yourself and reach out to your support network for extra help.
- Remind yourself that punishments, withdrawal, consequences and shaming will make the transition harder for everyone.

- Help the child to see the storm coming too. Say "the end of the school year can be a tricky, I'm here to help you through it"
- Help the child name the feelings that they have no words for. Try "I wonder if your 'moving up day' feels pretty scary right now?" or "When things are different like this, I wonder if it makes you worry about being left behind?"
- Help make connections between their behaviour and their feelings, try "When you run away like that it makes me wonder if you don't know where to be to feel safe? You are safe right here".



Be crystal clear

Tell the child the things they need to hear, don't wait for them to ask you because they don't know what they need! **Tell them:**

- How much you care
- That you are not going anywhere
- That they are in your mind even when not in your class/not at home
- That they are safe and protected
- That they will not be taken away
- Tell them what is going to happen that day if the routine is different – use pictures and 'steps' to prepare them.
- Remind them throughout the day what is going to happen and when
- Keep to as much of the usual routine as you can



Children feel fear in their body. Help the child's body to calm by:

- Doing short bursts of physical activity (star jumps, wall push ups, walking, running) frequently
- Playfully ask them to breathe deeply in the mornings and evenings – e.g. blow bubbles, blow away the feelings
- Do body calming activities with them
- Use sensitive touch to let them know you are there. Touch can be a great calmer.



Stay connected

Use 'transitional objects' to let them know that you are connected, even when apart. How about:

- As a parent, draw a little heart on your hand and the same heart on your child's hand as they go off to school.
- Give your child a special stone, or photo to hold on to at school that reminds them of you
- Teachers – give the child a 'transition card' – a piece of paper with a special message that they look after until you see them again.
- Let the child use their special teddies whenever they need to



Remind the child (and yourself) that the Transition Storm will come, and it will go. You will stick it out together, and soon it will be over.



Term Dates 2022 / 2023

September 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

October 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

January 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

March 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

April 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

June 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

July 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26	27	28	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

May 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

February 2023

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12

November 2022

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Term Lengths

- Autumn Half Term
- 7 Sep - 14 Oct
- Half Term to Christmas
- 31 Oct - 16 Dec
- Winter Half Term
- 4 Jan - 10 Feb

- Half Term to Easter
- 20 Feb - 31 Mar
- Spring Half Term
- 17 Apr - 26 May
- Summer Half Term
- 5 Jun - 21 Jul

Key

- Holiday
- Bank Holiday