

# Newsletter

THE SOUTHOVER  
PARTNERSHIP



Lemon Shark by Ruby -  
Finchley  
SPRING TERM  
2026

# THE EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER'S SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER WELCOME



**Dear Parents/Carers**

**As we come to the end of the Spring Term, I would like to take a moment to congratulate all of our students on their hard work and commitment during the recent mock examinations. These assessments play a vital role in preparing students for their summer exams, helping them to build confidence, identify areas for improvement, and develop effective revision strategies. The focus and determination shown throughout this period has been very encouraging.**

**I would also like to recognise the effort students have put into their Functional Skills on-demand examinations. Many students have already achieved successful outcomes, which is a fantastic accomplishment and a reflection of their perseverance and dedication. These achievements are an important step in supporting students' progress and future opportunities. Alongside our focus on academic success, we remain fully committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students. Staff have recently undertaken additional training in key areas of safeguarding, including awareness of online influences such as the manosphere and updates to Prevent training. This ongoing professional development helps ensure that staff are well equipped to recognise potential risks, respond appropriately, and continue to provide a safe and supportive environment for every student.**

**Staff have also been working collaboratively this term to define and reflect on our shared values and how these guide our work every day. This process helps ensure that our approach across the school is consistent, purposeful and centred on supporting students to succeed both academically and personally.**

**It has also been wonderful to continue strengthening our relationships with parents and carers. Our parents/carers coffee mornings provide informal opportunities to meet with me as Executive Head and discuss any aspect of your child's education and wellbeing. We have also hosted more in our series of parents/carers webinars. Thank you to members of the Senior Leadership Team and our Careers Lead for leading these sessions and for providing parents and carers with helpful updates about students' opportunities and their experience at school.**

**We were pleased to welcome many of you to our parents/carers evening on 24th March 2026, which was an important opportunity to discuss students' progress and next steps. We have also recently begun offering tours for families interested in Southover. Our students have been wonderful ambassadors during these visits, and it has been a pleasure to see prospective parents enjoying the opportunity to meet them and hear about their experiences as well as seeing them in action.**

**This newsletter will also update you on many of the exciting and educational opportunities your children have been engaging in throughout the spring term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff for everything they do to ensure that each day provides rich learning and personal development opportunities for our students.**

**Thank you to our parents and carers for your continued support. Your encouragement at home makes a significant difference, and together we can ensure that our students remain motivated, safe and well prepared for the challenges and successes ahead.**

**Have a wonderful Spring break and we look forward to welcoming the students back on Tuesday 14th April 2026.**

**Angela Moore**



## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL- KINGSBURY

As the weather becomes warmer and the days become longer, we finish the chapter of another busy term at Kingsbury Manor.

We have had very successful Career Days, aimed at students of all year groups in the school, where they could find about next steps, speak to recruiters and for the older students, write a CV and conduct a mock interview.

We are extremely proud of all the students who have sat mock exams and functional skills papers this term.

Elsewhere, students have enjoyed enriching trips to the Natural History Museum, Tate Modern Gallery and a Romeo and Juliet workshop, to name but a few outings, while the farm students have been working well during their weekly visits to Freightliners Farm.

Kingsbury Manor students are having fun with students from the other sites in our joint PE lessons, which began this term and have proved successful. It is lovely to see the cross-site friendships blossom.

We welcome new students that have joined our site this term and have lots of visits taking place for other new starters. We also bid farewell to staff who have left and wish them well in their post-Southover journey.

We hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing the students after the holiday.

Kerrie Marshall



## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL - EDGWARE

As spring opens to warmer days, we bid goodbye to a busy term.

Over the last two weeks students visited St Paul's Cathedral, the Tate Modern, the British Museum and the Goldberg theatre to watch Romeo and Juliet. These cross-site trips bring a lovely chance for the students to see their friends from other sites as well as unique learning experiences.

It has been a busy academic term too, with pupils sitting functional skills exams and preparing for their GCSEs.

Fatema Daya, our new assistant headteacher has brought rigour, enthusiasm and breathe of new ideas to keep both staff and students on their toes.

Jaheim and Kylar have joined the school and made good progress.

We had a very successful careers day, over two days students were introduced to the world of work by an external team. On the second day our older students conducted mock interviews and presented CVs, all of which was carried out in an intense corporate fashion mimicking the real thing.

Our students showed maturity, a professional approach and calmness that was a testament to their maturity and the thorough preparation of the staff to enable them to adapt to the change and thrive.

Finally, this week saw Zoolab paying a visit to school, where snakes, giant African snails and spiders, were handled, photographed and discussed by all the students. Some were fascinated; some were repulsed but all had a great learning experience.

Have a restful and enjoyable Easter. Students, please be kind to all who look after you. We will see you in April for the summer term.

Jonathan Harper

## WELCOME FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL – FINCHLEY



As I pause and reflect on what to write in my first newsletter, I am consumed with a feeling of immense pride as my first term at The Southover Partnership comes to an end. I am proud to be part of our truly inclusive community and have been struck by the warmth of all those connected to our school, none more so than our amazing students!

At Finchley, we have seen a fair amount of change in recent months, but students have shown a great deal of resilience and understanding, whilst remaining positive and welcoming. They demonstrated this to me immediately and have continued in this vein throughout.

It has been a busy term, back in January we opened our garden with the newly laid fake grass. This has allowed students some much needed time outside where they have been able to, let off some steam, play together and in recent days, enjoy the sunshine. This term has seen a focus on our character values of respect and motivation, two values I'm sure you will agree will serve our students well in all life has to offer. We have had a renewed focus on rewards, and I have been very pleased to see them shared around our whole student body.

We have had several events take place over the term. Yr 9 had a Shakespeare workshop hosted at Edgware by a member and current actor from the Royal Shakespeare Company. We had a successful Careers event for students in Yr 9 and above, with Yr 11s taking part in a mock interview, and we welcomed Zoolab, where our students encountered some interesting insects and reptiles.

I have been incredibly impressed by the work ethic of our students. Lesson times are focused and purposeful and our students really do show a desire to do the best they can and to succeed.

You will see in the newsletter a few great pieces of work in Art and Photography from our students. I have also regularly been blown away by the food our students produce, from homemade pizza, to pancakes and doughnuts, curry, Spanish omelette, burritos, Swiss roll and even sushi!

I'd like to thank the parents and carers for the warm welcome you have shown me, and I look forward to continuing working with you in supporting your child in the months, and hopefully, years to come.

I wish you and your family a very restful Easter break, and look forward to welcoming our students back in April for the summer term.

Alexander Pisani

## MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTHOVER CAREERS LEAD



### **Inspiring Futures: Expanding Careers Opportunities for Our Students**

Since the start of 2026, we have been strengthening our school's Careers Education programme to give students even greater opportunities to explore their future pathways and develop the skills they need for life beyond school.

A major focus has been helping students see how their learning connects to real careers. Teachers across the school have been working together to embed career links within lessons, helping students understand how the knowledge and skills they develop in class can open doors to a wide range of professions.

Students have also benefited from exciting employer encounters and real-world experiences.

In February, we welcomed professional recruiters from Simply Education for a two-day careers event. Younger students explored career pathways through interactive activities and discussions with employers, while older students took part in mock interviews and CV workshops, gaining valuable feedback and building confidence for college and job interviews.

To further support students in planning their next steps, Years 9–14 students are receiving individual careers guidance from a qualified external adviser, alongside ongoing support with college and apprenticeship applications. These personalised sessions help students explore their interests, identify suitable pathways, and make informed decisions about their future.

**We have also begun expanding work experience opportunities, including a new Sound Engineering project, giving students the chance to gain practical skills in a hands-on environment.**

**Parents and carers remain an important part of this journey. Careers updates have been shared through parent presentations, webinars, and regular communications, ensuring families are well informed about the opportunities and guidance available to support their child's future.**

**These developments reflect our continued commitment to providing a dynamic and inspiring careers programme, helping every student build confidence, discover their potential, and take the next steps towards a successful future.**

**Shawn George**

## Students are Outstanding Achievers



Two students from Kingsbury Manor were delighted to be selected to receive the Jack Petchey Award.

Zack and Jahmayah were each presented with a medal in a ceremony at Brent Civic Centre in Wembley.

The students were nominated by their peers to receive funding for the school and were given an accolade for being “outstanding achievers.”

Zack said: “It was a lot of fun and exciting to be chosen. I’m very proud of myself and everyone else who was there.”





## The Many Faces of the Natural History Museum

Students from Kingsbury Manor took a step into the past to explore the Natural History Museum.

Rory, Louis, Gabriel, Conor, Lucy and Osman were tasked with looking at the faces of various animals displayed at the South Kensington venue for this term's art project based on self-portraits.



As well as the mammals and birds, they also had the chance to see the dinosaurs, spiders and insect exhibition, and enter the earthquake room, which shakes to give visitors the impression of what it would be like to be caught in an earthquake.

Lucy enjoyed seeing all the birds, while Osman liked the dinosaurs. Gabriel preferred the creepy crawlies and Rory, the old wood tree trunks.

Following the trip, the students have been learning how to draw different facial features in class, and ultimately, a portrait of their own face.



TITLE



TITLE



# Students are good sports!



In a Southover first, students from all three sites have been coming together this term for joint PE lessons.

They have been able to experience handball, badminton, football and Danish longball.

Feedback from staff and students has been extremely positive. The children have enjoyed being in the larger class size, while being split into smaller groups for different games, which are catered to ability.

Kingsbury Manor PE teacher Aaron Callagher, who led the first session, which was handball and badminton, said of that lesson: "All students engaged with the learning objective and participated with high enthusiasm whilst working together in a friendly yet focused way.

"All students participated for a large majority, if not all of the lesson, with clear emersion and enjoyment alongside getting to know each other and make connections through relaxed gameplay / practice.

"I was delighted to see the consistency and improvements displayed in fundamental techniques from all students."

Lessons have taken place at Copthall Leisure Centre in Barnet and Chandos Recreation Ground in Edgware.



# SPRING AT THE FARM



**Students from all three Southover sites have been ensuring animals are fully cared for in their weekly sessions at Freightliner Farm.**

**Children have been busy feeding barn animals, rabbits, guinea pigs, chickens, ducks and geese, as well as keeping an eye on Mabel, the farm cat.**

**This term has also seen the students planting seeds, labelling products for sale and weaving nestboxes to be hung up for birds.**

**Farm lead Sara Greek said: "The students have been working so hard at the farm this term. They are often willing to give something a go, even if they are not sure about it, and it is wonderful to see them growing in confidence with the different animals and activities."**



# SPRING AT THE FARM





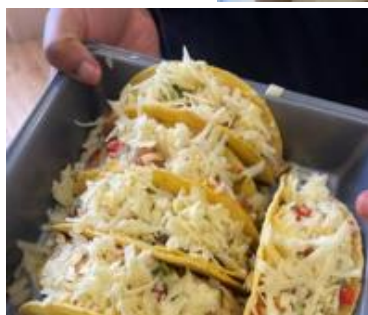
## SPOTLIGHT ON FOOD TECHNOLOGY



### A Delicious Journey of Creativity, Confidence & Culinary Discovery

Here at Southover our Food Technology curriculum is more than just cooking; it's an exciting, hands-on adventure that empowers students to become confident, capable, and curious young chefs. Through practical experiences and engaging theory, learners gain the skills to plan, budget, shop for, prepare, and enjoy nutritious meals that support a healthy lifestyle.

Students don't just follow recipes; they explore, experiment, and innovate. From mastering essential kitchen techniques to understanding the science behind their favourite dishes, they develop a deep appreciation for food and its role in culture, wellbeing, and sustainability.



## SPOTLIGHT ON ART AT KINGSBURY MANOR



It has been a busy and inspiring Spring term in the Art Department, with students engaging in a wide range of creative and enriching experiences.

Since our last newsletter, our Year 8/9 art students enjoyed an exciting trip to the Twist Museum in central London. This visit brought their classroom learning to life, as they explored a variety of optical illusions they had been studying. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience these concepts first-hand, sparking curiosity and creativity.

In addition, two groups of students visited the Natural History Museum, where they focused on observing and comparing facial features across different species. This supported their understanding of structure, proportion, and the fascinating similarities and differences found in nature.

Back in the classroom, students have been working on a portrait project throughout the term. They have responded in a variety of imaginative ways, developing key skills such as drawing facial features, mixing realistic skin tones, and experimenting with the styles of well-known portrait artists. It has been wonderful to see their confidence and individuality grow through this project.

At the start of the Spring term, five students also took part in a challenging mock exam which took place over three days. This was a significant achievement, requiring focus, resilience, and dedication. A big well done to all students involved for their hard work and commitment.

Overall, it has been a vibrant and productive term, and we look forward to seeing what our students will create next.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



## Two Inspiring Days of Career Exploration and Interview Practice

In February, our students took part in an exciting two-day careers experience delivered by professional recruiters and managers from Simply Education. The programme gave students the opportunity to explore career pathways, develop professional communication skills, and gain valuable experience preparing for future interviews.

### Day 1: Careers Day (Years 7–10) – 25 February 2026

Students in Years 7–10 visited the Edgware site to take part in an engaging Careers Day focused on opportunities within teaching and recruitment.

The day began with a lively introduction and ice-breaker led by the Simply Education team, who shared insights into their roles and explained how careers in education and recruitment can make a real difference.

Students then took part in a careers fair-style carousel activity, moving between four interactive booths. At each station, they met with professional recruiters and managers, asked questions, discussed their interests, and learned about different career journeys.

The activity encouraged students to think about their own aspirations while building confidence in speaking with professionals. It was fantastic to see students engaging enthusiastically, demonstrating curiosity, independence, and strong communication skills.

To round off the day, the team recognised the excellent participation shown by our students. One student was awarded a “Star of the Day” certificate for their enthusiasm and outstanding engagement throughout the event.

Overall, the Careers Day was a wonderful introduction to employer encounters and helped younger students begin thinking about future possibilities.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



**Day 2: Mock Interview Day (Years 11-14) – 26 February 2026**  
The second day focused on preparing our older students for their next steps beyond school, including college interviews, split placements, apprenticeships, and employment.

In the lead-up to the event, students worked with staff to create and refine their CVs, ensuring they were ready to present their skills and experiences professionally.

During the event, students took part in realistic mock interviews with professional recruiters from Simply Education. Each student attended a structured 20-minute session including:

- 10 minutes of interview questions
- 5 minutes of interview feedback
- 5 minutes of personalised CV feedback

Students signed in on arrival, completed interview documentation, and waited to be called for their session — replicating the atmosphere of a real interview setting. This helped students become familiar with the process and build confidence.

Interviews were tailored to each student's future plans and career interests, giving them the opportunity to practise discussing their goals and experiences in a professional environment.

The feedback from recruiters was extremely positive, with students praised for their preparation and willingness to engage. Students themselves reported feeling more confident, better prepared, and clearer about how to present themselves in formal interview situations.

A huge thank you to the Simply Education company and team for supporting our students and providing such valuable real-world experience.



## ZOOLAB COMES TO SOUTHOVER



Southover students were introduced to a range of unusual animals during a visit from a mobile zoo.

Sarah from Zoolab brought her creatures to all three sites and gave an interesting and informative talk.

Children met Superman, a Madagascan hissing cockroach, Gary the giant South African land snail, whose name is inspired by the Spongebob Squarepants character, tree frog Eric, Mexi the Mexican flame leg tarantula and corn snake Scarlett.



# RED NOSE DAY AT SOUTHOVER



Students and staff from all three Southover sites did their bit to raise awareness on Red Nose Day.

Activities included cake decorating, quizzes about the charity and wordsearches.

The children and adults were also encouraged to wear red to mark the occasion, as well as share jokes.

The global fundraising event, which is organised by Comic Relief, supports families in need across the UK and internationally.



## **COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKE HISS-TORY**



**Sadie, Coby and Casey continue to demonstrate their hard work and have built confidence during their animal care course at Capel Manor College.**

**They've engaged in more animal handling, including lizards, rabbits, and snakes, feeding and animal behaviour observations.**

**Sadie conquered her fears when she gently stroked and held a royal python snake.**



## FPS GARDEN IS BLOSSOMING SUCCESS



As many of you know, back in September we returned to our home at Finchley Progressive Synagogue on Hutton Grove after a year away. During that time, the building enjoyed some extensive refurbishment—but the garden had to wait its turn.

We're very happy to report that the wait is finally over! On 2nd February, we proudly opened our brand-new garden space with a little celebration. The area now boasts all-weather artificial grass so it can be enjoyed rain or shine, we can finally use our vegetable planter and there is new fencing to help keep everyone safe. The excitement didn't stop there - a basketball hoop has been gifted by Edgware site, adding yet another way for students to let off some energy!

To mark the big moment, the students pulled straws and Zak won the honour of cutting the ribbon. It took just five minutes before the garden was officially christened with its very first football match!

True to form, as lessons were about to restart, the ball flew over the fence, so we have a feeling we'll be stocking up on footballs ready for a busy summer of matches.

We hope the children enjoy many happy, sunny days playing, growing, and making memories in their wonderful new outdoor space.



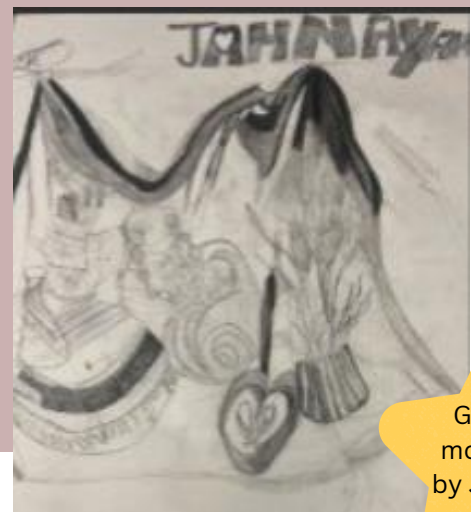
## WOW WORK: KINGSBURY MANOR

### A story that takes place on a summers evening

The damp, sand glistened in an homage of orange, standing as if it held up the world. Along this was an entropy of bright shades of red and purple, that spread across the dazed sky. By the shore stood Gilbert, unphased from the calmness of the sea, staring off into the horizon where the sun lay near the edge, as if it was about to hibernate. Gilbert was waiting for the rest of his group to show up. Fatigue filled his mind from a long day of travelling and avoiding relentless bandits. In the distance where the sand meets the path; Lechdan, an exhausted warrior assisting Gilbert on this adventure stumbled onto the beach, worn out from the number of times he had to fend off God knows what. With all of his energy Lechdan yells "Gilbert! Can't you keep up with me, I've had to fend off everything you've attracted." Gilbert turns to face Lechdan as he sluggishly trotted over. "We aren't even close to the nearest tavern; I'd rather not continue when it's pitch black." Gilbert grins as both of their shadows grow to as tall as the trees. He says, "Why not we at least take a break and enjoy the scenery, or listen to the waves brushing against the sand-" He was rudely interrupted by Lechdan "Not now Gilbert. I need the biggest tankard of ale after today and I don't see any ale around here."



Egyptian anime style  
by Lucy



GCSE Art mock exam  
by Jahnayah

Creative writing by  
Harrison

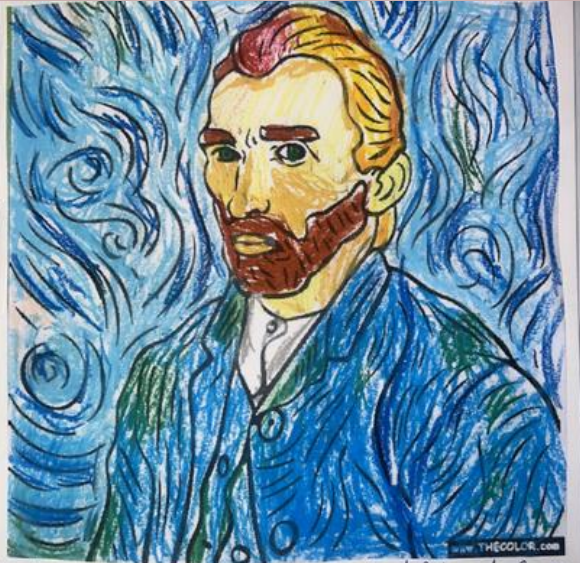


Collage by  
Gabriel



Keith Haring style  
colouring  
by Osman

# WOW WORK: KINGSBURY MANOR

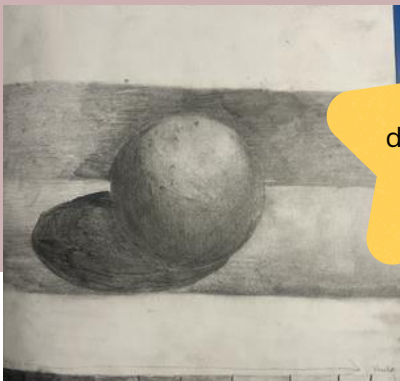


Words Lucy used to describe this self portrait: Balanced, Curvy, Relaxed and busy. In this portrait the lines look curvy I like how busy it is and I feel relaxed when I look at this It was easy to work like Van Gogh

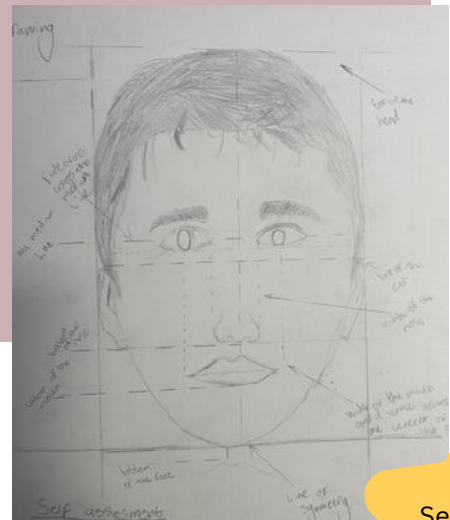


GCSE mock art exam by Taliya

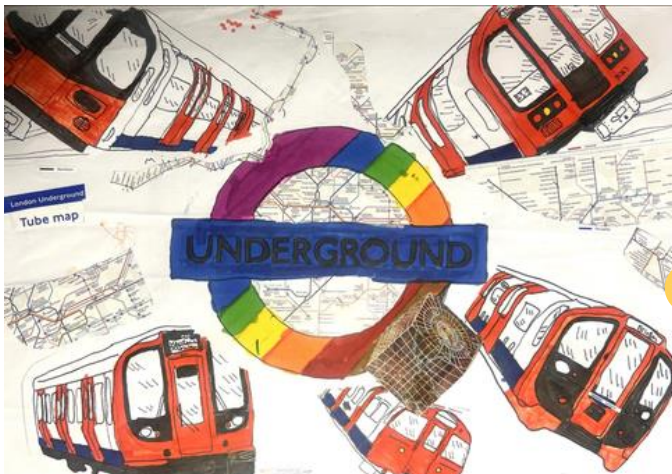
Van Gogh style colouring by Lucy



Tonal drawing by Shai



Self portrait by Rhys



Drawings of a train by Zack



## WOW WORK: FINCHLEY



Photography  
with  
silhouette by  
Josh



A girl  
rides an  
elephant  
by Jane

## WOW WORK: EDGWARE

The prison was dark and dank and cold. The walls were hundreds of feet high and made of grey, forbidding stone, as opposed to the brick I was used to, which let in the cold more easily, and so the whole prison was grey, and perpetually cold. The wind blew in through the tiny open windows and the gaps under the doors, and whistled around the corridors until it met the wind from the courtyard, and the two joined forces to create the most devastating gale. It often felt the same in the courtyard as it did outside because of this, and even the guards hated the cold. They would stand around with thick cloaks on, muttering to each other.

The courtyard itself stretched almost entirely around the building, and there was no grass or trees, just rivers and lakes of gravel. The gravel was the only thing that remained the same from before prison; it made the same good-hearted crunch and bits of it got in my shoes, same as ever. Often I made believe I was simply walking up and down my old street at home.

To get into the courtyard you needed the guards to unlock the door; they carried a long chain of keys on their belts to open doors with. I remember those doors so well, how tough and unforgiving they were. Unlike the walls, they were made from steel or iron, and force alone could not open them - it took many minutes of tugging and cursing before one of them finally heaved open, making a terrible wheezing and clanking sound and slamming shut with the sound of metal collapsing. Because of this they were frequently left open, which made the guards' keys somewhat pointless.

The corridors were dark and musty, and the rooms were worse: small and smelling mostly of pisses and urine, because the chamber pots were kept directly under our beds, and rarely emptied. The walls were so soot-beset that you could hardly see

Creative writing  
by Blu

**Sign Session**  
With Noa  
all are Welcome!

One time session  
on Tuesday 13th  
IN MP1  
At 11:30 - 12:15

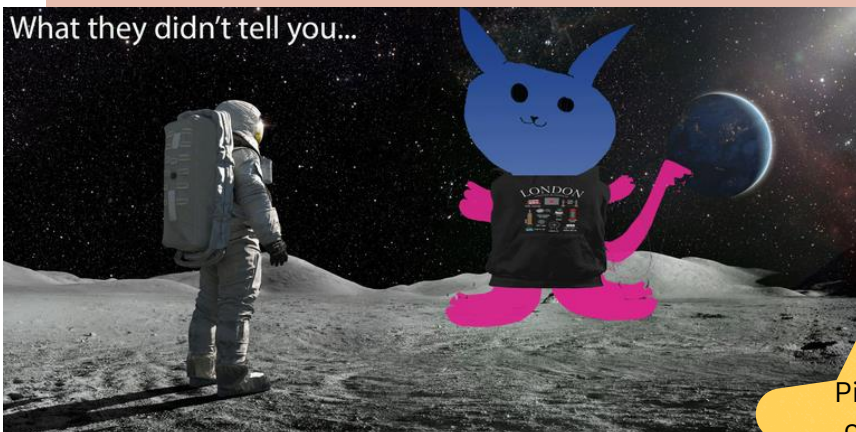
Learn about

- + Hearing Loss awareness
- + Deaf awareness
- + Sign Supported english
- + BSL awareness
- + And communicating Together

JE E

Leaflet  
by Noa

What they didn't tell you...



Pikachu  
on the  
Moon by  
Jake

## WOW WORK: EDGWARE



Cushion  
sewn by  
Amayah



VIDEO:  
Robot by  
Taylor

This world can be a complicated, existential place, one that we can all find difficult to cope with and to define ourselves within.

I believe that to truly understand both our universe and those within it, we must first know and understand ourselves.

This belief encourages introspection: a method of internal thinking that examines how we think, feel, process, and function.

We look at all of our individual qualities, intersecting to form each of our personal identities. We dissect, analyse, and question each of them, attempting to define the undefinable.

We are all part of a community.

Whether it's your school, your work, your activities, your religion; neighbours, friends, or family. your community is made up of people, and within it you are an individual.

Your thoughts and opinions deserve to be heard, considered, and valued.

Every identity, your identity, deserves unconditional acceptance, respect, inclusion, and empowerment.

As a good film once put it "no matter who you are, and what you do to live, thrive, and survive, there are still some things that make us all the same."

I think that it is often easy to know what we are against, what you oppose and disagree with. But we must also strive to know what we stand for and which values and ideals we each choose to believe in.

These perspectives are part of who we are, but they are not all.

We are also our experiences, aspirations and our mind-set, so much of who we are is shaped by our outlook, how we focus on solidarity and compassion, recognising and appreciating each of our thoughts and emotions. Only by accepting ourselves can we then adapt to embrace and counter new things.

Although we may struggle and feel constrained, you must remember that you are not powerless.

I believe our power comes from our capability to learn, teach, and grow.

To keep improving, both individually and together, so that when we do gather, as a community we use it as an opportunity to communicate, express, and share.

We make a promise:

A promise to use this power to care, help, and heal for ourselves, and for others.

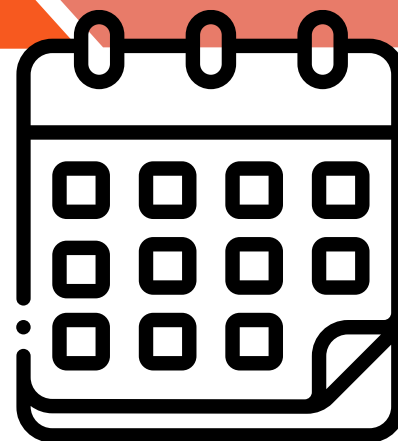
A promise to build the world we want, and create it in the ways we each see fit.

A promise to look beyond our limitations and redefine our expectations.

If we try, only then may things begin to be and feel better.

PSHE work  
by Noa

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR NEXT TERM



Date	Event
Friday 27th March	Last day of term
Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April	Easter Holidays
Monday 13th April	INSET Day - No students
Tuesday 14th April	Students' First Day Back
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday - No school
Friday 22nd May	Last day of half term - normal finish time
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	First day back for students post half term
Thursday 16th July	Celebration Afternoon- More details to follow
Friday 17th July	Last day of term