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Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our Spring term newsletter and what a term it has been.

With school closures, lockdown 3.0 and virtual learning it has been a challenging term that we have overcome, as always, I want to start by thanking you for your continued support of the school and as shared earlier this term we are excited to announce our new site will be ready Autumn term 2021. It is a great time for us at Serenity and we look forward to sharing more information on the new site in the Summer term.

Ms C Ayisi

Miss Richter's Attendance Awards

I want to say a big well done to everyone who has improved their attendance this term. It has been a difficult for all of us attending virtual lessons, so I'm glad we are all back onsite enjoying our learning! A big shout out to the following students:

Most improved attendance:

Keiran W, Orlando, Ezekiel, Kye

Most consistent attendance:

Ross, Thyrek, Isaiah, Faraj

Best attendance:

Joshua, Charlie, Calvin



Pupil and Parent Surveys

Our Parents Think:

90% agree that the school makes them aware of what their child will learn during the year.

80% agree that their child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed

80% agree that the school lets them know how their child is doing.

Our Pupils Think:

80% agree that they enjoy school.

80% agree that teachers help them do their best.

80% agree that there is an adult in the school they can talk to if something is worrying them.



Sports Leaders Course

After a challenging start to the new year with restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, the Sports Leaders group have finally taken their first strides towards the Level 1 qualification. The students in the class group have already completed two of the five units required to achieve Level 1 and are currently beginning their third unit. The learning so far has seen us filter through five key skills in leadership which have provided all students with a set of skills that are not only beneficial for leadership in sports but are transferable to all areas of life.

Physical Education

The students have been raring to get off the laptops and away from the screens, so we have seen an influx of energy in our PE lessons this term. The return to school has also enabled the students to return to their physical education, and pupils have engaged in a range of sports for leisure this term whilst having Basketball as their main focus. Some of the key performers in Physical Education during the Spring term have been: Faraj Nourdeen, Thyrek Gordon, Vaswani Pearson and Jayden Serba.

Mr Osbourne

Popcorns Return

Following from last terms visit from my kittens Popcorn and Fluffy. Popcorn has come in again to meet the boys.

Now five months old Popcorn is much bigger and more agile. The boys assessed her development, we discussed the needs of pets and the best ways to look after them.

As Popcorn grows from kitten to cat it is not likely she will return to Serenity, as cats need lots of.... Serenity!

All pupils agreed it may be time to invest in a school pet!

If you could choose the ideal school pet, what would it be?

Ms Ayisi



Food Tech

After the unexpectedly long break all of the students were more than eager to return to the kitchen and start cooking again.

In KS3 this term we made some low-cost recipes and various dishes using similar ingredients as we were learning about ingredients. We were exploring how to use the same ingredients in many ways.

KS3 students made crackers. Some of the flavours were very interesting. We had sweet chilli flakes with Doritos and sweet cinnamon with poppy seed. We also made a homemade pasta with rich tomato sauce.

Some of the KS4 students were keen to try more challenging dishes than ever before. The shepherds' pies cooked by them was a big success. They had the opportunity to express their own personality by choosing from a large selection of spices and herbs.

Ms Kiss



Charlie is washing up.



Isaiah is rolling out his homemade pasta.

Behaviour and Attitude

During this term we have had a new member of staff join our behaviour team. Mr Swaby joined us in September and has been working closely with many of our students in a mentoring and student support capacity. With his help we have started up a pupil mentoring scheme to help our students not just with their behaviour but also in their social and emotional needs.

All the students have been working towards their end of term behaviour rewards and I am pleased to say that all the students in our school have remained above the 1000 reward points with 3 students being over 3000 points. Congratulations to all the students and I hope they all continue to keep up the good work.

Mr Williams



Comic Relief – Red Nose Day!

On March 19th Serenity School celebrated Red Nose Day by having a pyjama day, everyone got dressed up in their best pyjamas or onesies and together we raised a total of £25!



Group D Achievements

Group D have had a good spring term. Even though most of it has been spent learning virtually since being back at school the boys have made progress towards their qualifications. Three of the group have been rewarded for hard work in their motor mechanics course with a trip to Essex to ride the motorbikes they have been working on. I would like to congratulate group Ds year 11s who have completed at least 2 of their qualifications and will hopefully have passed at least 5 including maths and English. I wish you all a happy easter and look forward to a productive and successful Summer term.

Mr Williams



Art KS3 & KS4

This term KS3 pupils continued experimenting with art and design ideas and techniques. KS3 Art pupils looked at 2-dimensional shapes and colour through the work of American ceramic artist, Kimmy Cantrell. They produced some exciting drawings and created 2-D Faces in the style and technique of Kimmy Cantrell using cardboard as shown below.



KS4 Art has been exploring the use of materials, techniques and visual language in art and design. They explored texture and colour, made collages, took photographs and drawings as primary sources and researching other artist's works and ideas in preparation for the final art and design work.

Below are examples of KS4 pupils' colourful response to Dutch painter Ton Schulten's colourful landscape paintings.

Mr Essel



Brentwood Motor Mechanics Trip

On Tuesday 23rd March the mechanics students got the opportunity to go to Essex, Brentwood for the day to ride the motorbikes they have spent the past few weeks fixing and preparing for the trip. The boys were extremely looking forward to this trip as they were able to watch their hard work pay off. Instead of just starting up the bikes in the workshop they were able to ride the bikes around the woods, through lakes and trees. By the end of the day the boys were extremely muddy and burnt out but that is all part of the fun!

Ms Parry-Dean



Maths

This term in math's we have been covering sequences.

Number sequences are sets of numbers that follow a pattern or a rule.

If the rule is to add or subtract a number each time, it is called an arithmetic sequence.

3, 7, 11, 15, ...

Firstly, work out the difference in the terms.

This sequence is going up by four each time, so add 4 on to the last term to find the next term in the sequence.

3, 7, 11, 15, **19**, **23**, ...

Mr Shah



Literacy

It has been a great start to the new year within the Literacy department. There has been a great push to get all of our students reading. With our online reading platform, Myon, Serenity students are able to access thousands of books on any day at any time! We have rolled out a new reading scheme with the chance for all students to participate in becoming the 'reader of the week'. This is a great incentive as the students enjoy being praised during assembly, enjoy winning a £5 Amazon voucher and having their name featured on our Literacy display. We have enjoyed reading together in small groups, incorporating some role play with the younger students, and targeted 1-1 reading sessions for a more personal, student-centred approach.

The highlight of this term thus far has been our involvement in World Book Day (WBD). WBD is a fantastic initiative celebrated throughout the world and on 4th March 2021 our students here at Serenity Croydon had the chance to become authors for the day. Our students put on their creative thinking hats and took part in writing exciting short stories. The prize on offer for the best stories was a £10 Amazon voucher! I am excited to share a few passages with you below:

"James gets ready to hop in the Uber to go to Dingwall road. He tips the Uber £5 then walks towards 69 Dingwall Road and knocks on the front door asking for Lizzy. Then Lizzy comes down in a sparkly red dress they head towards Nandos. They sit down at table 420 the waiter asks for our order Lizzy says 'Halloumi cheese with rice oh and a cup of tea'."

(Anonymous, KS3)

"At 9am I ran out of my yard and I hopped into my cab. I was so tired, I fell asleep. Suddenly, I felt someone tapping my shoulder so I shouted "oi" really loudly. I thought I was dreaming. Thankfully, it was only the driver trying to wake me up. I stepped out of the cab and hopped into the shop to buy a Cherry Caprisun." **(Anonymous, KS4)**

"I like the kitchen because I like to cook. I like to make cakes with mum. Vanilla cakes are the best! The ingredients that I put in the cakes are flour and sugar and eggs and milk. I feel happy when I make cakes." **(Anonymous, KS4)**

Ms Sheppard



Employability

The KS4 students have been working through the Understanding Mindset workbook. The unit focuses on mindset qualities that employers look for in their employees. The students have worked hard and have demonstrated a good understanding of workplace expectations.

I can demonstrate honesty in multiple ways by saying what I mean and mean what I say, I can communicate openly with an honest fashion, I can willingly accept responsibility by admitting a mistake or an error in judgment and to always tell the truth to my employer. Example of Kieran Rich's work.

PSD

Healthy living is the current focus in personal social development. The students have been researching the factors that promote good health. The unit is very informative and relies on the students to give a lot of personal information. The honesty that has been shown during lessons is great and shows that the students have trust in their peers to discuss this openly.

Personal safety

It is very important to be aware of your own personal safety. There are many things everyday where it is necessary to keep yourself safe.

Using public transport, keeping personal possessions safe, road safety and keeping others informed of your whereabouts.

Taking responsibility for yourself will help to protect you and put you at less risk of being in a potentially dangerous situation.

Life coaching

Seeing the world through ourselves has been the focus this term. It allows students to look at how other people perceive their actions. During a practical lesson, the students did puzzles of perception. This was an activity that requires the students to really look at the layout of the puzzles and recreate them with colored pencils.

Sebastian was really quick and accurate when taking part and managed to make all the puzzles first attempt!

Mr Foster



Although we have school closures due to the pandemic, I have had the pleasure to receive some good feedback from all the boys, regarding their lunches.

Over the past few weeks, I have built up good “foodie” relationships with the pupils and staff at Serenity School. I realize that food is a very personal thing for each and every one of us, but with the help from the boys, I am confident that I have included, some yummy, varied, balanced meals for all of us.

The boys lunch time is very important to them, and I often have many reminders, “Miss, Don’t forget the seasoning,” “Miss, add some extra chilli”. I love to see the interest in lunch time way before midday when the boy’s comment, “mmmm, what you cooking, Miss?” “What smells so good, Miss?”

Although we have a 2 week set menu, I have got to know the boy’s food preferences and small tweaks can be made to their less favourite dishes, for example, a bit of chopped chilli for Ezekiel on his pizza always makes him smile. I look forward to many more yummy meals at Serenity.

Mrs Saba



Menu

Week 1

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Macaroni and Cheese with Garlic Bread	Jerk Chicken with Rice	Cumberland Sausage with Creamy Mash Potato	Beef Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Chicken Strips and Chips
Macaroni and Cheese with Garlic Bread	Jerk Sweet Potato and Courgette with Rice	Vegetarian Sausage with Creamy Mash Potato	Vegetarian, Bean Chilli with Rice	Quorn Nugget and chips
Mixed Salad	Roast Sweet Potato and Peppers	Baked Beans Gravy	Corn Chips Sweet Corn	Garden Peas Tomato and Cucumber Salad
Lemon Cake	Ice Lollies	Short Bread Biscuits	Chocolate Mousse	Fruit Salad and Yoghurt

Week 2

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pepperoni Pizza with Homemade Potato Wedges	Macaroni and Cheese with Cajun Chicken Wings	Spicy BBQ Chicken with Spicy Rice	Beef Bolognese with Pasta	Fish and Chips
Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Homemade Potato Wedges	Macaroni and Cheese	Spicy BBQ Veggy Bites with Spicy Rice	Quorn Mince Veggy Bolognese with Pasta	Veggy Fingers and Chips
Mixed Salad	Carrot and Cucumber Salad	Sweet Corn	Broccoli and Carrot	Peas Baked Beans
Peaches and Custard	Chocolate Cake	Cookies	Chocolate Mousse	Ice Cream

