



Serenity School Crawley

Winter Newsletter 2023



A Holistic Approach to Education and Childhood Development

We look after ourselves.

We look after each other.

We look after our learning, school, community, and world.

We look after our future.





Results 2022-23



We are excited that the 2022-23 academic year was a huge success for our year 11 cohort at Serenity School Crawley. We are pleased to announce that 100% were able to successfully achieve our Serenity Baccalaureate (5 or more qualifications). It is testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff. Qualifications achieved were:

- Functional Skills Qualification in English
- Functional Skills Qualification in Maths
- Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills
- Level 1 Award in Personal & Social Development
- SLQ Spots Leader L1
- BTEC Level Award in Home Cooking Skills

We also had success with our Year 9 students who gained Qualifications in Functional Skills English and Maths, Level 1 Personal & Social Development, Sports Leaders and ASDAN Bronze award.

Thank you to all pupils and staff for their hard work and dedication in maintaining our commitment that all students leave Serenity School with no less than 5 meaningful qualifications.

Jessica Campbell

Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning



Personal Development



Personal Development at Serenity School takes many forms, from weekly assemblies, curriculum activities and guest speakers/presenters. Below is a selection of articles detailing just some of the events pupils have been a part of this term.

Life Choices – Andy Watson Guest Speaker

Pupils in the upper school welcomed Guest Speaker Andy Watson into the school this Autumn. Andy delivered presentations to all classes on life choices including substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and prison. All students were thoroughly engaged with the session asking fantastic questions throughout. Andy will be back in the new year to deliver further sessions to small groups.



West Sussex Police – PC Titchband

As part of our commitment to engage students with the local community, this year has seen us collaborate with West Sussex Police to deliver safeguarding sessions to all pupils on various topics including knife crime and online safety. The school will continue to work closely with the local Police Force to ensure pupils have access to high quality sessions and information that will keep them safe.





The 'Investor In Me Programme' began its cycle for the 2nd in September following excellent engagement in the scheme from all students last year! Below is an overview of the programme with examples of the rewards students can access.

What is the Investor in Me Programme?

The Investor in Me programme encapsulates Serenity School's goals for all students into one comprehensive reward programme.

The programme accounts for attendance, academic, behaviour and therapeutic progression providing a platform for ALL students to experience success.

Students are grouped into categories based on their engagement and progress in the above criteria and rewarded frequently.

What's the criteria?

Formal/Semi-Formal:

BRONZE	Silver	Gold
Meeting Attendance Targets	90%+ Attendance	95%+ Attendance
80% Academic Subjects on/slightly below Target	80% Academic Subjects on Target	90% Academic Subjects on/above Target
Beginning to Meet IEP Targets	80%+ IEP Targets Achieved	90%+ IEP Targets Achieved
1000+ Behaviour Points	1000+ Behaviour Points	1000+ Behaviour Points
Bronze Standard ASDAN Qualification	Silver Standard ASDAN Qualification	Gold Standard ASDAN Qualification
80%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions	80%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions	90%+ Attendance to Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track PSD Programme.	80%+ Attendance to Personal Development Sessions	90%+ Attendance to Personal Development Sessions

Nurture:

BRONZE

Meeting Attendance Targets
Achieving 1 Equals Strand
Beginning to Meet IEP Targets
80%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

Silver

90% Attendance
Achieving 2 Equals Strands
Meeting IEP Targets
80%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

Gold

95%+ Attendance
Achieving 3 Equals Strands
Meeting/Exceeding IEP Targets
90%+ Attendance to
Therapy/Intervention Sessions
On Track Mencap Programme.

What are the rewards?

Rewards for the investor in me programme differ based on pupils' position. Students select their rewards from the bespoke catalogue (1 from bronze, silver, and gold) and receive the prize that corresponds to their position on the programme at the end of the year. A breakdown of prizes is listed below:

BRONZE

End of Year Personal Reward
(Bronze Catalogue)
Weekly Small Steps Rewards
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw

Silver

End of Year Reward (Silver
Catalogue)
End of Term Trips
Tutor Group Prizes
Entry to the 'Tri Prize' Draw
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw

Gold

End of Year Reward (Gold
Catalogue)
End of Year Trip (OAA/Overnight)
End of Term Trips
Entry to the 'Tri Prize' Draw
Entry into the 'Crack the Code'
Prize Draw



Trips



At Serenity School, offsite trips are used for several reasons including extending learning, work experience, but often, to reward students for their hard work. Two of our recent reward trips are detailed below.

Hampton Court Palace

Following a unit of work on The Tudors, Key Stage 3 enjoyed a trip to Hampton Court to find out more about King Henry VIII and life throughout the Tudor Period. Students explored 'King Henry's Apartments', The Kitchens, The Garden, and enjoyed navigating the Maze at the end of the day.



Into Film Festival – Cinema Screening

November marks the annual 'Into Film Festival', a festival driving education through media and film. Key Stage 2 Primary students enjoyed trips to the Everyman Cinema for a screening of Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles which they thoroughly enjoyed.

INTO FILM



Monty



Our family of Therapy Animals has welcomed a new addition this Term with the arrival of our new Headteacher Mrs Pettman. Monty is a miniature labradoodle and enjoys playing football, belly rubs, and eating. Monty is on duty two days a week to provide therapeutic support to pupils where necessary.





Our Classes



Whilst an array of offsite trips and activities are available to our students, let's take a look at what some of our students have been up to inside the classroom.

Finch Class – Primary

This term, we have done a variety of new activities that the children have loved exploring and in which they have gained confidence and independence.

Children in Finch Class like expressing themselves through My Art, My Music and My Independence. Furthermore from reading to making stars out of sticks collected.

The children have put forth a lot of effort to meet their targets. Working with the children has made me incredibly proud of them for creating such a wonderful classroom. From threading to elves in motion, turned upside down snowmen, clay sculptures and reindeers.

Finch Class wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and hopes that everyone has a pleasant break.



Magpie Class – Primary

The children in Magpie class have been incredibly busy this half term! They have enjoyed developing their teamwork skills through different group-based activities. In English, the children have been reading 'the Pebble in My Pocket', to support with their learning of rock formation, coinciding with their science topic of rocks and fossilisation. Each child then chose their own pebbles to base a piece of artwork on, using water colours, incorporating different shades and tones.

In their history lessons, the children have discovered the differences between modern life and those of the Vikings, comparing home life and even Viking laws with their own! In PE, the children have been offsite to K2 to develop their swimming abilities on a Wednesday and on a Friday, they have been to the tennis courts to further their tennis skills.

Magpie class have met lots of different animals through their animal therapy sessions and have enjoyed two trips this term.

On behalf of myself and the Magpie class teaching team, I would like to express how proud we are of the children in our class for both their academic progress and the way they have all developed personally over the term. We would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and we look forward to the Spring term in 2024.

Kingfisher Class – Primary

In our vibrant Kingfisher classroom, we have witnessed a heartening journey about Seven children Aarav, Aaron, Bethany, Ellis, Hamzah, Sarah and Theodore. The Children have seamlessly settled in to the warm and learning environment of the classroom. One of the most notable achievements has been the positive response we have observed. Through understanding their needs and tailored approached, these incredible young minds have not only adjusted but have actively engaged with their surroundings. Their growing comfort is evident in their genuine smiles and body language.

Communication, a fundamental aspect of any classroom, has taken a monumental leap forward. Through the use of Makaton and PECS, our students have discovered effective ways to express their needs and desires. The power of communications aids, combined with the patience of our dedicated staff, has empowered these young learners to articulate their thoughts and connects with their peers in meaningful ways. Although they are very apt in their vocabulary but struggles with the phonics and in a surprising turn of events they are responding well to the visual aids and showing signs of significant improvement in all areas of subjects.

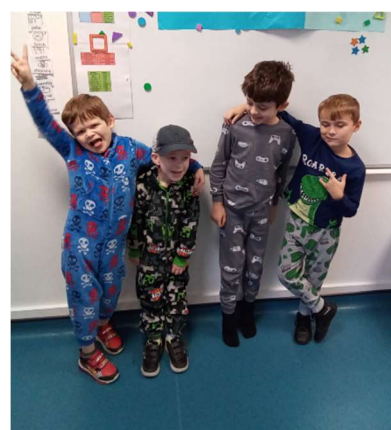
A beautiful aspect about our classroom is the diverse range of interests their children bring for example; a keen interest in arts as evident by the pictures below of the students actively participating in celebrating Christmas like making Christmas tree (decorating it as well) and Christmas cards.



Wren Class – Primary

Wren class have had an amazing start to the academic year. They have all settled into class routines well and made incredible progress both academically and socially. All students in Wren have made new friends, supported each other, looked out for each other and made the class a safe and fun environment to thrive within. We have learnt about space, habitats, life cycles, shapes, phonics, place value, occupations and so much more. Wren have enjoyed lessons and activities within the class as well as offsite. Some of our favourites have been animal therapy, visits to the park, creating a class rocket and even a trip to McDonalds! In December we have had the pleasure of jingle pants the elf joining our class adventures too.

We wish everyone a very merry Christmas, and hope everyone spends lots of time with their families. We look forward to welcoming you back after the Christmas holidays.



Merlin Class - Primary

Merlin students were highly engaged throughout the Tudor exploration combined with the hands-on nature of constructing Tudor house models, captured their imaginations and creativity. The model-making process was a highlight of the term. Students embraced their creative sides, designing Tudor houses with meticulous attention to detail. Each model reflected the unique vision of its creator.

For maths, the term began with an exploration of 3D shapes, where students were introduced to fundamental shapes such as cubes, spheres, cylinders, cones, and pyramids. Interactive lessons incorporated multimedia resources and real-world examples to enhance students' understanding of the spatial properties of these shapes. Each student or group was tasked with selecting a 3D shape and crafting a detailed model. The project seamlessly integrated mathematical principles. Students applied their understanding of geometry to calculate dimensions, angles, and proportions, ensuring the accuracy of their 3D shape models.

For English the term began with a series of interactive language activities designed to improve both speaking and listening skills. Engaging discussions, debates, and storytelling sessions set the tone for a dynamic and communicative learning environment. Emphasis was placed on real-world conversations to make language learning authentic. Students engaged in conversational exercises that mirrored everyday situations, allowing them to practice language in contexts they might encounter in their lives outside the classroom.

Robin Class - Primary

Can you believe how quickly this term has flown by? We've been up to so much exciting stuff, it's hard to keep track! Let's fill you in on what we've been diving into lately.

English Adventures: We've been weaving our own magic in English by crafting our very own fables! Exploring these stories has been awesome, but the best part? Unravelling the morals tucked within each tale. Trust us, there's a lot to learn from those clever animals and their adventures!

Mathematical Marvels: Math has been a whirlwind of multiplication and division lately. We've been mastering these skills like pros. Watch out, numbers, we're coming for you!

Globetrotting Adventures: From the northern to the southern hemispheres, and even those countries cozied up on the equator, we've been globe-trotting in our studies of different lands. It's been fascinating exploring the diverse cultures and places worldwide.

Splash-tastic PE Sessions: Who doesn't love a bit of pool time? We've been honing our swimming skills at the K2 Leisure Centre during our PE sessions. Making waves and having a blast!

Friday Fun at the Tennis Dome: Friday afternoons have been aces! We've been serving up some serious skills at the Tennis Dome. Game, set, match – we're getting better every week!

Trips and Thrills: Our trips this term have been off the charts! Exploring new places and discovering exciting things has been an absolute blast. Here's to more adventures in the new year!

With the holidays just around the corner, we're all bubbling with excitement. Wishing every one of you a holly, jolly Christmas! May your holidays be filled with laughter, joy, and all the good stuff.

See you in the New Year for more epic adventures and learning!

Warm wishes, Robin.

Skylark Class – Secondary

Skylark students have settled well in class and have made good progress in their literacy and maths. They enjoy story time watching Three Little pigs, Big Bad Wolf, Sharing is Caring, Safety Man Safe Swallowing, Space Adventure, Be Kind to Others, and Genki Park that tackles My Physical Wellbeing.

Animal Therapy has given them a great opportunity to mingle with some therapeutic animals visiting the school every term.



My play and leisure and My Independence have maximised their enjoyment to have fun in supporting their likes and interests that provide motivation in them to make some progress in their personal development.

Sparrow Class – Secondary

A new class formed for the 2023-24 academic year, Sparrow Class have quickly settled into their new environment and are making excellent progress across the board.

In English, students have been working through a 'Speaking & Listening' unit of work, developing their ability to voice opinions, respect turn-taking rights, and enhance their use of questioning. The unit has seen the class discussing and debating topics including Online Dangers, Healthy Lifestyles and Mobile Phones in Schools. For Numeracy, pupils have developed their knowledge of the four operations, before applying these skills to a unit of work on shapes, including properties of shapes, measuring length/angles, position, and direction, and calculating bearings.

Elsewhere across the curriculum, in Science, pupils have been learning about DNA, Genetics and Inheritance, building their own DNA models from sweets, which of course they enjoyed consuming once they were complete. In Humanities, pupils explored The Weather, and The Tudors, producing some fantastic work which is currently displayed in the classroom. And for PE, pupils have continued to improve their swimming abilities at K2 Leisure Centre.

Both parents and pupils should be extremely proud of the progress students have made over the Autumn Term. I'd like to wish all pupils and their families a Merry Christmas, I look forward to welcoming students back in the new year.

Harry Thompson
Head of Upper School & Sparrow Class Form Tutor

Swift Class – Secondary

Swift class have been busy with their learning this half term, we have got to grips with shape, area perimeter and co-ordinates in Maths.

For English we have held some excellent debates and discussions for our speaking and listening skills. Some of our topics have included 'are UFO's real?' and 'Is religion important?'

Students came up with some excellent theories and points and showed off their communication skills.

This half term in Science we have researched atoms, elements compounds and mixtures. We made molecule models and created our own non-Newtonian mixture. (a substance that is both a liquid and a solid!)

We are going back in time for Humanities and are delving into the Tudors. We made our own models of tudor houses and we are finding out about the monarchs of that time especially Henry VIII.

We are proud of our learning and achievements and look forward to seeing what the new year brings. Well Done Swift Class!



Eagle & Falcon Class – Secondary

This winter term both classes have been busy completing their Functional Skills Maths Booklets. Some have progressed through the levels with ease.

Speaking and Listening has led to some interesting ideas and healthy debates within the group including 'The Cost-of-Living Crisis', 'How we Spend our Free Time and Hobbies' and other scenarios discussing how one would spend a lottery grant of £100,000 for our school. Some ideas were quite exciting with imaginations going as far as a 'Holiday to Spain!'

With Christmas around the corner food tech has had a festive flavour using warm earthy spices to make gingerbread men and topping cupcakes with Christmassy sprinkles.

As a whole class we have had some trips to the K2, our sporting facility, where the students have taken part in swimming, squash and basketball and badminton games. Staff have had some competitive running races around the outdoor track to encourage further fitness. Students also attend tennis lessons which ends the week nicely on a Friday afternoon.

All students have had an opportunity to experience off site trips which is part of the reward system where if on Silver or Gold will get to experience choosing and participating in further outings as a group. So far, we have been to Crawley Hollywood Bowling where the fun begins with taking turns and cheering each other on to win the most points. Each student was then given money to spend in the arcades.

Both parents and pupils should be extremely proud of the progress students have made over the Autumn Term. We'd like to wish all of your family a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. We look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year 2024.



Community School