

TERM 6 NEWSLETTER 2016/2017

Milestone Academy



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Dear Families,

Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to three long standing members of staff who are retiring. Alex McBryde, Site Manager, Pat Lane and Chris Smith, both Teaching Assistant, have all achieved more than 20 years service each! Our pupils and colleagues are indebted to the service they have given, and we wish them all a happy retirement.

Equally, we also wish a fond farewell to a number of our pupils who are leaving us either to new school or college settings or to life beyond Milestone Academy as a young adult.

As Principal I wish to record my deep gratitude to pupils, colleagues, families, the Governing Body and the LAT for all support and rightful challenges I have received through a very vibrant academic year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all parents, students and staff who donated to our dress up/dress down day to raise funds for Macmillan. We raised an amazing £590!

I wish you all a restful summer.

Thank you.

Nigel Jones – Principal

NEWS

PHASE 1

Phase 1 have had a fantastic last term of 2016-2017. We started with a very successful activity week where we were visited by Eagle Heights, Pippa the Therapy dog and Mickey Mouse! Penguins and Turtles were also given a very 'hands on' experience at the local fire station where they able to get on the fire engine and use the water hose!!

We also had our Sponsored Toddle in aid of Barnardos, where "Po" the Teletubbie supported all of Phase one to "Toddle" around the school grounds raising a grand total of £746!!!

Thank you so much to all the families that supported us in our walk and who donated so generously!

What with the lovely weather and lots of end of year trips Phase 1 has really made the most of the Summer Term.

As Phase Leader I would like to wish everyone a very happy summer break and look forward to seeing everyone settling into their new classes in the new academic year.

Karen Thomas – Phase 1 Leader.

TERM DATES 2017/2018

Term 1 Mon 4th Sept – Fri 20th Oct

Term 2 Mon 6th Nov – Wed 20th Dec

Term 3 Thurs 4th Jan – Thurs 8th Feb

Term 4 Mon 19th Feb – Thurs 29th Mar

Term 5 Mon 16th Apr – Fri 25th May

Term 6 Mon 4th Jun – Tues 24th Jul

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

Please remember that if your child is absent from school, you must call as early as possible to let us know. Dial 01474 709420 and select Option 1.

MEDICATION

Please be aware that KCC provide the school transport. Please ensure that the Driver and Escort know of any medical needs that your child may have.

Please ensure that any medication sent to school is passed from Adult to Adult and not in your child's school bag. Thank you.

NOTICE

Please could all parents and carers dropping their children off at school in the morning return to their cars and vacate the space as soon as possible. This will enable the traffic to keep flowing so we can get the children into school quicker.

Thank you for your co-operation.

PHASE 2

Phase 2 have had a busy final term for this school year. Alongside the excellent progress being made by our pupils in Maths, English, PSHE and their provision plan targets, pupils have begun to make steps towards the transitions to their next classes or for some their next Phase!

In total we say goodbye to 36 pupils from Phase 2 this term, most of them moving into Phase 3 here at Milestone Academy and a few who are moving on to new school placements. We wish them all the very best and know that they will continue to progress and grow into fantastic young people. This term we will also say goodbye to some of our Phase 2 staff, some of these again will be moving on with pupils into Phase 3 or 4 classes, in particular we say 'see you soon' to James Doddington our Mountain Class teacher who stepped into Phase 2 leader role for a short time. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication to making the Phase 'tick' and we wish him well as he moves into the role of Phase 4 Leader where he will work his magic to support our older pupils.

Whilst saying goodbye we also say hello to a new intake into Phase 2 of pupils from Phase 1 and some new pupils to our school altogether as well as a range of new staff who are either moving up with pupils or coming to our school for the first time. We say hello to Hollie Osbourne who will be leading Meadow class next year and a welcome to teachers from other Phases who are now joining our team. Lots of changes this term will allow us to continue to provide exceptional provision for the pupils and pave the way for an exciting year!

Many thanks for all of your support.

Simon Stanton – Phase 2 Leader

PHASE 3

Phase 3 have had a fantastic final term! Alongside our curriculum we have had a variety of special events which have provided exciting and inspiring learning opportunities. We have concluded our school year with a fun packed activity week to celebrate all of the student's hard work. The theme of the week was 'Medieval Mayhem' and each day we had special visitors and memorable activities. These included archery led by the New Ash Green Scouts and a not so medieval bouncy castle, sports day and demonstration from four fantastic members of The Medieval Siege Society, a medieval banquet barbeque and a whole Phase trip to Leeds Castle! The atmosphere was amazing and each and every young person gained something special from the experiences.

I am extremely proud of all of the personal and academic achievements the students in Phase 3 have made this year. Thank you all for your ongoing support, I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you all again in September.

Noleen Donaghy-Parkhouse - Phase 3 leader

As you will see from the photos below, Phase 3 had a wonderful activity week. This year has been a wonderful year for our students, and we have greatly appreciated the contribution of so many parents in the development of our curriculums, as well as the contributions of the students themselves. I'd like to thank all of you for your support, and thank all students and staff for their hard work over the year.

There will be two students who will be leaving Milestone Academy at the end of the year and we wish them all the best for their future and every success in their new schools. I'd like to wish those students who will be transitioning to Phase 4 in September lots of luck and I will look forward to seeing them thrive in the next phase of the school.

Have a lovely summer!

Lucie Featherstone - Assistant Principal & Director of Phase 3.



Medieval games



Phase visit to Leeds Castle



The Medieval Siege Society



Archery



Bouncy castle



Banquet BBQ

PHASE 4

This term has been busier than ever for Phase 4. The students from both sites came together for Sports Day when everyone had opportunities to try different sports and all earned a well deserved medal. Students moving to different classes next year had the chance to spend time in their new class including those students transitioning to Milestone@Wilmington in September.

The phase took part in two productions. Classes based at Milestone worked with the arts team to produce *The Spirit of Milestone* while those at Wilmington wrote and produced their own musical, loosely based on the Blues Brothers called *Tainted Blues*. The students covered every element of production from scriptwriting to stage management, costume design and acting. The final result was a huge success.

Dover class have had a very busy term, they have been taking advantage of the warm weather and have taken the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom, including a minibeast hunt and a recycling challenge.

Canterbury class have really enjoyed their swimming this term, all students have made great progress. They have made a couple of trips to the shops, purchased ingredients and then cooked a simple meal.

Eynsford class have had a good term in our temporary classroom. The focus has been on picnic foods in food technology and have made some lovely treats, including scotch eggs which were a triumph! Eynsford class have had a really positive year overall and it has been a delight to watch the students progress so much.

Leeds have enjoyed visiting local pubs, eating outside and socialising with the locals and raising the profile of the school. Leeds class were enthralled by the performance of Babe at the Orchard Theatre. The whole class were a credit to the school. We are all very proud of our students who have grown into mature young adults who are able to fully participate in their community.

Upnor Class have continued to access several areas in the local and wider community. We have used the local buses to visit Dartford and Swanley, showing an increased understanding of the local bus routes and the time structure you need to follow to use them. In the food technology rooms at Wilmington and kitchen at Dragons Retreat they have been able to demonstrate good life skills practice whereby they have cooked lunches, practiced bed making and general home cleaning skills. Our term highlight was our trip to London by train where students planned a theatre trip to see Matilda and it proved a very successful day.

Hever class have had a busy term filled with hard work, exams and trips out.

The class finally organised a trip to Hever Castle where the students enjoyed a personal tour of the castle, explored the water and yew maze and looked around some of the gardens. Despite being the end of the year they have continued to work hard towards their exams and coursework and are ready to enjoy a well deserved break.

Quite a few of Rochester Class students took leadership roles in this year's Sports Days, and all of Rochester's participating students have passed their Sports Leadership accreditation. Four of our students took part in a visit to the Houses of Parliament, where they were greeted by Lord Roberts of Llandudno, given a tour of the Palace of Westminster and enjoyed lunch on the terrace overlooking the Thames. We also took the opportunity to visit Chinatown and Leicester Square. In PSHE, our unit on sex and relationship education went ahead with maturity and a better understanding of these complicated issues.

We are particularly proud this year of our five students who undertook a Supported Internship over the year in local businesses, supported by Kent Supported Employment. This was a pilot project for Milestone Academy and has led to our students having further aspirations for their futures and has also enabled a number of them to develop independent travel skills.

As the term draws to a close we hope everyone enjoys the restful break they deserve. As always the end of an academic year brings with it some sad farewells to all our students who are moving onto local or specialist colleges next year. We are also saying goodbye to Tracy Hayes who has been at Milestone for too many years, both as a TA and FE Leader. Tracy is moving onto looking after her grandchild and although she will be missed, she may come in to work with the pupils if time allows. We would like to take this opportunity to wish every leaver the very best for the future and a lovely summer to all.

Janet Tidmas - Phase 4 Director and Liesl Andersson – Phase 4 Leader

THERAPY NEWS

I am so delighted to be able to let you know that Milestone has achieved The Balanced System Scheme for Schools - Centre of Excellence award.

The Balanced System® Scheme for Schools is a whole system approach to improving outcomes for children and young people across the range of speech, language and communication needs (www.thebalancedsystem.org).

We have spent the last two years auditing and evaluating our provision and practice here at Milestone. The areas we have considered include family support, workforce, environment, identification and intervention. The award is recognition of the work we all do at Milestone together to support children's speech, language and communication needs.

My sincere thanks to all the wonderful teaching staff, therapy team and families for working so closely with us which has made this possible. Of course while awards bring recognition, it also brings new focus and direction. I look forward to sharing plans with you over the coming year.

Thank you all again for working so closely with us. Have a wonderful summer break.

Liz, Laura, Tim, Jamie, Terri & Anne

FRIENDS OF MILESTONE



Registered Charity No. 278677

The Friends of Milestone have a new logo, we hope you like it?

With new parents and staff coming on board to help, this year has been great, culminating in our annual Summer Fete which raised over £2,000. We are already making plans for next year and the fete will be bigger and better than ever.

We are planning a Halloween Disco (a firm favourite), and will be holding a Fireworks display in the Autumn.

Watch this space for dates and we look forward to seeing more of you in the next Academic year.

On behalf of the Friends of Milestone, thank you, everyone for your support over the past year.

Lyn French

Secretary - FOM

SPORTS NEWS

Students from Phase 3 and 4 represented the school in the Kent School Games Football Tournament in Canterbury and put some excellent performances together against strong opponents.

Sparta class from Phase 3 took part in a quick Cricket tournament at King's Hill Cricket Club. The class have been getting specialist coaching on a Friday morning from Kent Cricket and they put their new skills into practice during the event.

The phase 3 and 4 Sports Day went very well and students enjoyed competing against each other in a competitive but fun environment. The phase 1 and 2 Sports Day didn't survive the weather so students took part in an indoor sports carousel on the day and worked hard to receive their medals.

Steve Devereux – PE Subject Leader