

Lighthouse News



Spring 2023

A Message from the Principal:

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Spring edition of Lighthouse News. It's hard to believe that we are almost two thirds of our way through the 2022/2023 academic year already. What a busy Spring Term it has been!

Our new Year 7s who transitioned from Primary school in September, are now fully adapted to the Lighthouse way and Key Stage 4/5 students are making preparations for their next steps.

School has hosted external consultants at the end of last term and this, to do some in-depth analysis of the provision of English, Maths, Science and Personal Development in school. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with only a small number of recommendations which are now been actioned.

'Personal Development is the 'golden thread' that runs throughout the school'

'Pupils' EHCPs are at the heart of provision'

'(The) curriculum is ambitious, whilst meeting the needs of pupils it is ensuring that pupils are stretched'

'A diversity of staff knowledge ensures (a) broad curriculum'

'(Students) are making progress, in that they know more, remember more and are able to do more and in doing so are acquiring knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in life'

We are continually looking at ways to improve the curriculum and its delivery. We have been delighted to have been able to introduce Mandarin on to the curriculum as a result of a partnership with a local secondary school, Horsforth School.

We have taken advantage of the 'Strike Days' and used them to have whole school focussed learning days including celebrating World Book Day, exploring Internet Safety and a STEM innovation day.

Despite the disruption of the snow, a range of National Careers Week activities were able to go ahead supporting our students to further their understanding of employment, careers, pathways and providers.

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A Message from the Principal continued:

Well done to 5A, 5B and some students in 4A and 4B who started their mock exams (in English Literature, English Language, Maths, Computing, Food Tech and Science) during the third week of March. These mock exams are to support students both academically and emotionally in preparation for the real thing this summer and in future years.

It has been wonderful to see parents and families coming together for coffee mornings, training and events, including the Teen Life taster sessions held on 21st & 29th March. The next planned Beacon coffee events are on Monday 24th April and Wednesday 7th June 2023, so please put these in your diary if you want to meet with other parent/carers and meet the Beacon Parent Liaison team. Further information can be found on the school's Parent and Carer Facebook page. It is also great to see the PTA being active again after the impact of COVID on the committee and its events. A massive thank you to the PTA for funding various projects in school this academic year. With constant growing running costs for the school, the funding is very much appreciated as without this funding the school would not have been able to achieve these projects this year or in the near future.

Their next big event is the 10 years of Lighthouse Celebration on 20th May 2023 which will be a combination of the PTA Spring Fayre and family friendly activities. Please contact the school office if you would be able to support the event in any way.

We have a lot to be proud about this term, in particular the student who achieved the school's first Silver Crest Award!

Have a good Easter break and enjoy the time with your families. We look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Monday 17 April 2023.

Kind regards
Emma Sullivan
Principal

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World Book Day

On Tuesday 28th February we celebrated World Book Day 2023. Students were able to dress up as their favourite character or dress down in their own clothes. The whole school celebrated by having a drop down day, which included an assembly, writing competition, design a book token competition, design a book cover competition and other activities. The Principal and a governor came and read to the students in our library, the students really enjoyed the session.

Winners of the book cover competition were: Eve, Ben and Cameron.

Winners of the book token competition were: Maisie, Brody and Jozi

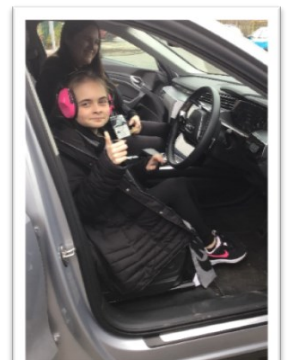
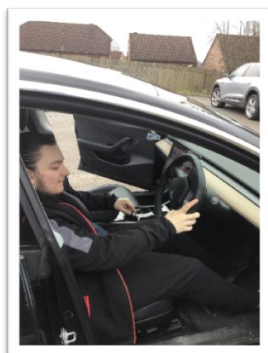
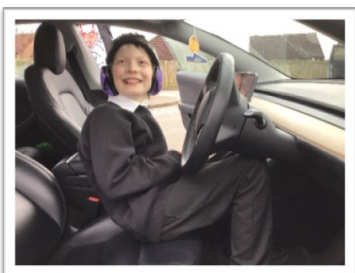


Stem Day

Visit from Zenith

This term, our students honed their skills as inventors and designers by participating in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) day!

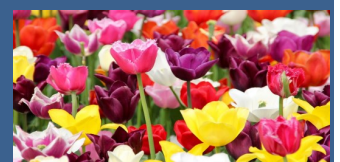
The students learned about STEM jobs and industries, and they also had the opportunity to [safely!] explore three electric cars - two Teslas and an Audi e-tron - brought in by Zenith Vehicles. The students particularly enjoyed using the screens in the vehicles, which had a variety of apps, music, and special effect buttons; one button even started a car light show!



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Speech and Language

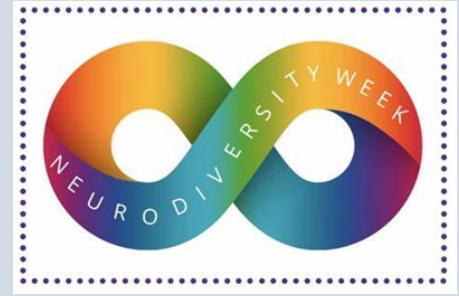
There are 2 key awareness and celebration events this month.

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

13th – 19th March 2023

Autism Acceptance week

27th March – 2nd April 2023



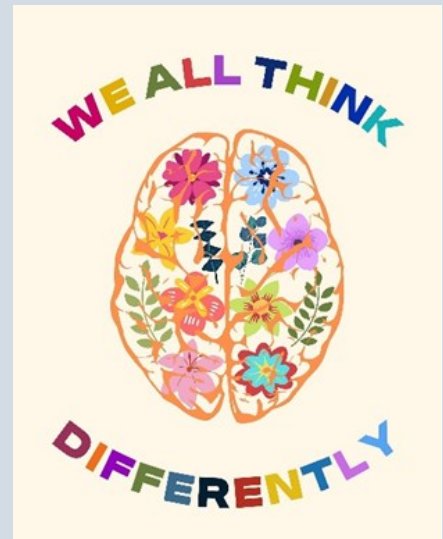
This term we will be launching our **Neurodiversity Awareness Week** creative **competition**.

We will be explaining the terms Neurodivergent, Neurodiverse and Neurodiversity and encouraging students to **recognise** and **celebrate** the strengths of being **Neurodiverse**.

The term Neurodiversity refers to the differences in how people think, process information, behave and communicate. It emphasises that everyone's mind works differently. People have different interests, motivations, skills, and strengths. These differences should be recognised, understood, respected, and celebrated

Students will be encouraged to design something about the following:

Celebrating me! Share your **special talent**
Tell us about your **dedicated interest**
Challenge — have a **myth to bust** about Autism



They can join in with the competition by creating a:

- Poster
- Video
- Painting
- Song
- Poem
- Animation

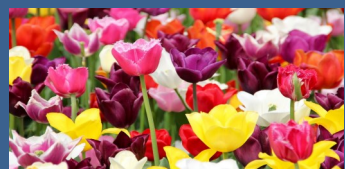
The **deadline** for entries will be **Wednesday 19th April**. This might be a wonderful project to support your child to complete at home during the Easter holidays.

Winning entries will be shared in the next newsletter.

If you would like more information on Neurodiversity or Neurodiversity Acceptance week please email allsalt@lighthouseschool.co.uk

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National Careers Week

National Careers Week [6th – 10th March 2023]

Despite the snow disrupting some of our plans, we still managed to pack lots into Careers Week!

Following the success of the previous year, we decided to re-launch the fun lunchtime activity 'guess the staff member's first ever job' to kick off Careers Week. It was wonderful to see students interacting with one another about career paths, and it was a great activity for starting conversations with students about realistic first jobs and how many people don't have a 'straightforward' career pathway as soon as they finish school/college/university....and that's okay!



Thirteen students from Key Stage 3 and 4 enjoyed a Cats Protection careers talk, where they learned about the organisation's various job roles and pathways, as well as information about social media roles, volunteer work, and fun facts about cats and their behaviour!

Meanwhile, eleven Key Stage 4 and 5 students had the opportunity to learn more about our local Further Education providers and took a trip down to Lighthouse Futures Trust for a guided tour and Q&A session. This was an excellent opportunity for students to experience a college-like setting and learn more about Supported Internships.

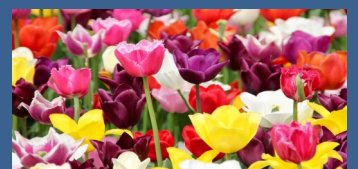
Seven Key Stage 5 students ventured next door to Lady Ida Lodge to do some intergenerational work. The students participated in a 'speed networking' session with eight of Ida Lodge's residents, moving around the room and asking each resident questions about their school experiences and jobs. Students enhanced their communication skills, gained confidence, and learned about generational differences. The event received really positive feedback, with one student saying, "that was really interesting," and another saying, "I socialised so much, I hardly wrote anything down!"

To finish off Careers Week, students completed a fun 'guess the famous person's first job' activity during registration time.

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Eye Care Team

NHS England, who oversee the NHS, have committed to transforming eye care and vision checks for children and young people in special schools in England by delivering a free service on the school premises which will include an eye examination and the supply and fitting of 2 pairs of glasses for every child who needs them.

The Eye Care Team is made up of clinicians who have received additional training to deliver eye checks and dispense glasses to children with learning disabilities and/or autism. The team at Lighthouse is made up of Joanne Mackreth an optometrist and Ian Thwaites a dispensing optician.

25% of the students tested since September have required glasses.
This is life changing for our students!

During the eye test students are supported by staff in school or you can attend with your child. If you would like an appointment for your child please email admin@lighthouseschool.co.uk.



Assemblies

Every week we hold an assembly for the students in school. We have split the students into two groups so that each student attends assembly on a fortnightly basis. In assemblies we hold quizzes, celebrate our values talk about things happening in school and in the wider world and award certificates to students. These certificates can be awarded for a wide range of reasons: helping others, showing a positive attitude, being a good friend and not just based on academic achievement. We really enjoy getting news of achievements outside of school and awarding certificates for those too, so please keep us informed of your child's extra-curricular activities.

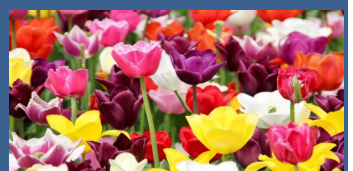
When students are not in assembly they have lessons focussed on developing their social skills, engaging in a number of activities and avoiding the use of electronic devices. We even have one group studying Mandarin!



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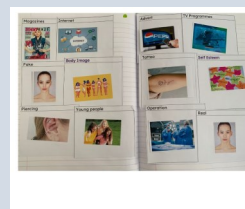
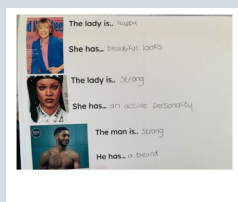
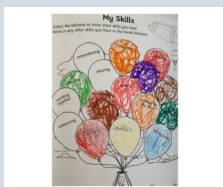
This half-term, Key Stage 3 students have been exploring the topic 'Healthy Lifestyles - Body Image'.

Students have been focusing on what self-esteem and body image are, describing ways pictures might not be real and describing different body types that they might see. They started by making flashcards of the keywords we were focusing on. This has really helped the students to progress and support discussions in their following lessons.

Students did some work around describing themselves and what they are good at.

Recently, they have been looking at words they can use to describe a person's body type that promotes body confidence.

They did a great job!



Student Council

Student Council are currently working on a range of projects.

These projects include supporting the School to make a gender bias curriculum. Our student Inclusion Officer has been putting a lot of effort into this, and so far, they have assessed the Key Stage 3 English Curriculum to see how the teaching materials that are used potentially contribute to gender bias.

The following initiative is an eco-campaign to encourage students to bring their own reusable water bottles to school. One of our student Event Coordinators has started creating educational posters that will be shown across the school to encourage the usage of reusable water bottles rather than single-use plastic cups. They are also making a PowerPoint presentation about the effects of single-use plastics and the reasons why we should stop using them.

The last project is one that explores what it's like to attend Lighthouse School. A mix of our Student Council Officers are creating a booklet that is designed by students for students, and will hopefully support new or in-year transfer students to understand what their daily life will be like at School. So far students have mapped up what their day looks like at school and are continuing to make sure all those tips and tricks students need to know are there and ready to share!

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PE

Since returning back from the Christmas holidays our students have been engaging in a number of different sports; Fitness, Gymnastics, Rugby and Netball. Within these sports the students have been learning to understand the key fundamentals needed in order to successfully participate, and also explored advanced skills where appropriate. We have also had groups in PE access the sensory fitness curriculum. This has had a strong focus on core and shoulder stability. Yoga has been a real success within these lessons as students have been able to engage independently and challenge themselves.

Reading week

This half term, Key Stage 3 students learnt all about performance poetry. As part of 'Reading Week', they attended an online workshop on creative writing and poetry hosted by the famous performance poet Tomos Roberts aka Tomfoolery himself!



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Music

We have had a wonderful term in Music, making memories and magic. Of course, we made a real racket too! Key Stage 3 have been learning about musical counting, using their maths skills to help them understand the relationship between numbers and musical notation. Students have put their learning into practice by playing a whole range of handheld percussive instruments, as well as dabbling in drumming, and the occasional electric guitar!

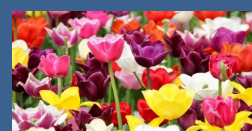
In Key Stage 4 and 5, our Options Music students have been working on their song writing skills showing the diverse range of tastes and talents that our school has to offer. Using Garage Band software to record their ideas, students have created works which range from soft-rock about sausage rolls, to Justin Bieber influenced RnB, and everything in between. As well as making music, our Arts Award Silver students have been researching the wider music industry, identifying career pathways which may suit their skills and interests.



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SEND Youth Forum Celebration Event

Through our ongoing collaboration with Leeds City Council's Voice & Influence team, some of our Key Stage 5 students who took part in the Compass House Pop-up Shop in December 2022 were able to attend a celebration event at Leeds Civic Hall. The students visited the magnificent banqueting suite of Leeds Civic Hall and met the Lord Mayor and Mayoress of Leeds!

Over tea, coffee, and cake, the students reconnected with other students involved in the project from other Specialist Schools in Leeds. All students were recognised for their accomplishments and participation in the project, and each received a certificate from the Mayor and Mayoress!



Careers

Careers Talks

In February, two staff members from Leeds City Museum and Galleries came in to do a careers session with Key Stage 3 students, where they learned about various jobs in the museum industry and handled some very old artefacts!

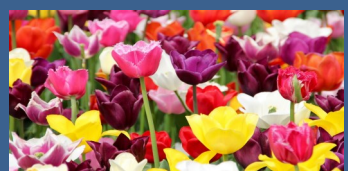
The students participated in a fun activity in which they were given objects to match to images of appropriate jobs and learned about careers in the industry such as archivist, curator, shop assistant, tour guide, and more. They then held the artefacts and learned about their history - they saw an 1800s bottle, a Stone Age tool, a WWII can of window glazing putty, and an Ammonite fossil!



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Beacon Event

During the spring term we have hosted a number of “Coffee and Chat” sessions. The parents who have attended have enjoyed time to connect together and share experiences.

We had Endorphins (<https://endorphins.uk/>) join us at our last “Coffee and Chat” session to advise parents on their service and applications for holiday provisions for young people with SEND. We are hoping to have more guest speakers join these sessions to provide information to families.

Our Lighthouse School Parent Carer Facebook Closed Group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/lighthousebeacon>) remains open and active sharing signposting, tips and information to families. This group can also be used by parents to connect and to share experiences with each other.

During the Summer Term and into next academic year, the Beacon Family Support Team will be exploring hosting a range of events including ‘Parent Hub’ information and networking sessions, and also some other events supporting family connections, this will be based around the feedback received in the Beacon parent survey.

After feedback from parents we now have a dedicated email contact for any questions, concerns or signposting you may like around Family Support. This email will be checked by our Family Support Team and then directed to relevant staff in school or provide external signposting to families.

Family Support – Beacon Email Contact

beacon@lighthouseschool.co.uk



We will be welcoming three new Teen Life facilitators to the team, thanks to some PTA funding, meaning we will be able to run a range of Teen Life Courses for families.

Teen Life Facilitating Team at Lighthouse

Vicky Eustace (TL158)

Chelsey Schofileld

Kirsty Heys

Tracy O'Brien

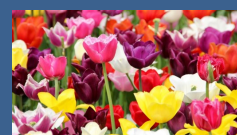
NAS Teen Life is a 6 Week parent support programme covering a range of topics specifically targeted for parents of teens on the spectrum. Parents can apply to take part in the course and then will be allocated to course with a group of parents. We can now run the sessions in person and virtually to allow families greater access.

https://www.lighthouseschool.co.uk/teen_life.php

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Staff Training and Professional Development

During the Spring Term staff have undertaken a range of CPD activities both internally and externally across our training calendar. We have continued to support our Wellbeing Strategy and included a range of wellbeing activities as part of staff CPD days.

This term we have started the next part of our shared Leadership training with East Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre. We are following on from our NAHT Discovery Pathways development programme from last academic year. All senior and middle leaders at Lighthouse are undertaking a training programme with Bright Bird Coaching and Training, this is supporting effective people management and a positive and productive work environment. These sessions have also allowed for collaborative working with another specialist setting and enhancing shared practice with our school leaders.

Across our staff training days and internal CPD sessions we have covered a range of topics:

- Safeguarding Training Updates; FGM, Safer Working Practice and PREVENT
- Promoting Adaptive Teaching, modifications to support adverse childhood experiences and Trauma (Teaching Team)
- Promoting Effective Classroom Support (Support Team)
- Promoting Policy and Procedures (Business Support Staff)
- Exploring and enhancing Oracy across the school
- Supporting Assessment and Marking
- Promoting differentiation
- Supporting Reading and Writing in school, as part of dyslexia week
- Enhancing Break & Lunchtime support
- Speech and Language Refresher Training for staff
- Training on new HR and Management platform.

Staff have attending training externally in the following areas:

- Meeting the needs of children with SpLD (Dyslexia) and literacy difficulties (SEND Team) – Leeds SENIT Team
- First Aid Training – Underwood Training
- Medical Needs Training - School Nursing Team
- Intimate Care Training - Leeds Child Safeguarding Board
- Safeguarding Designated training which meant we have two additional members to the team
- Toolkit for Learning and Cognition (SEND Team)
- SENCO Leeds Network Sessions – Leeds for Learning
- Careers and IAG Leeds Network Sessions – Leeds for Learning
- Leeds Curriculum Conference 2023 – Leeds for Learning
- Teaching Emotional Wellbeing (Leeds School Wellbeing Team)
- Team Teach Refreshers Training (Leeds Health and Wellbeing Team)
- Teen Life Facilitator Training – National Autistic Society

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Horticulture

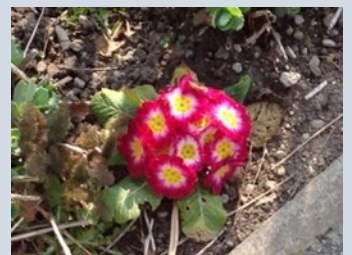
Students doing the Horticulture Option course have been busy learning about propagation this term. We have been taking cuttings and sowing seeds. This will lead to a BTEC qualification as well as plants for free!

Key Stage 3 students trying Horticulture as a taster have had a term learning about the importance of insects and animals in the garden.

Such a great time of year as the garden begins to burst into life!

Happy gardening,

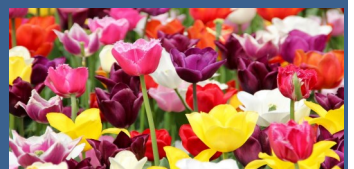
Sarah (Horticulture Teacher)



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Science

Students in Science have really enjoyed making a pH indicator using red cabbage. The purple cabbage liquid turned red when mixed with acid, and green with an alkaline. Other groups have enjoyed an introduction to engineering, building and programming with the Lego Spike robots. One student made a grabber!



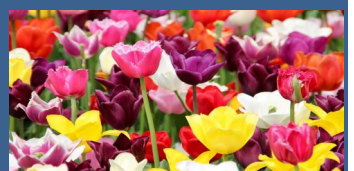
In Engineering, George made the news with his amazing Lego Spike biscuit dunker. After becoming the first Lighthouse student to earn a Silver Crest Award, George's invention was featured in the Yorkshire Post, and then on Calendar News and Leeds TV.



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Easter Biscuits

Equipment



Ingredients

150g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

75g white caster sugar

75g slightly salted butter, chopped

½ large egg

Method

Step 1

Turn oven **on** and preheat to **180** degrees.

Step 2

Cut greaseproof paper and place over 2 baking trays and leave to one side.



Step 3

Place bowl on weighing scales and press **zero**.



Step 4

Weigh out **150g** of **flour**



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Easter Biscuits

Method Continued.....

Step 5

Press **zero** on the scales and add **75g** of **caster sugar** into the flour.



Step 6

Mix the **flour** and **sugar** together until smooth with a spoon

Step 7

Put bowl back on **scales** and **press zero**, weigh out **75g** of **butter**.

Step 8

Rub the butter into the flour and sugar with your fingertips. Check there are no lumps of butter!

Step 9

Beat 1 egg in a bowl and **add** $\frac{1}{2}$ to the mixture. Ask a member of staff if you need help.

Step 10

Turn the pastry onto a work surface and gently press down with your hand until everything is mixed together.



Add some flour if it sticks to your hands or the surface.

Step 11

Wrap the dough in clingfilm and put your initials on it. Place in the fridge for 15 minutes.

Step 12

Sprinkle some flour onto your work surface and place the dough on top. Use a rolling pin to roll out the dough to the thickness on £1 coin.

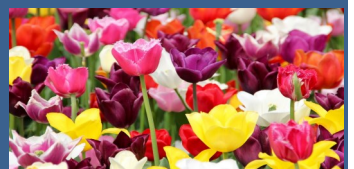
Step 13

Use a biscuit cutter to cut your biscuits. Twist and shake the biscuit cutter to help remove the biscuit from the pastry.

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Easter Biscuits

Step 14

Put the biscuits on a baking tray. Use a pallet knife if needed.



Step 15

Use oven gloves and put in the oven for **10-12** minutes or until golden brown.



Step 16

Take out with oven gloves and put baking tray on a cooling rack.

Step 17

Leave cookies to cool down for at least **15** minutes before touching them.



Step 18

Decorate your biscuits with coloured icing. (recipe below)



Step 19

Wash up all of your equipment. Dry up and make sure a staff member checks it.

Put all equipment away.

Royal Icing Recipe

To decorate

200g/7oz [icing sugar](#)

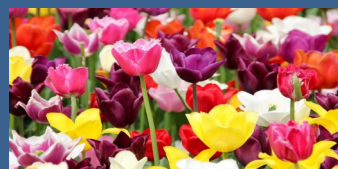
3-4 tbsp water

2-3 drops [food colourings](#)

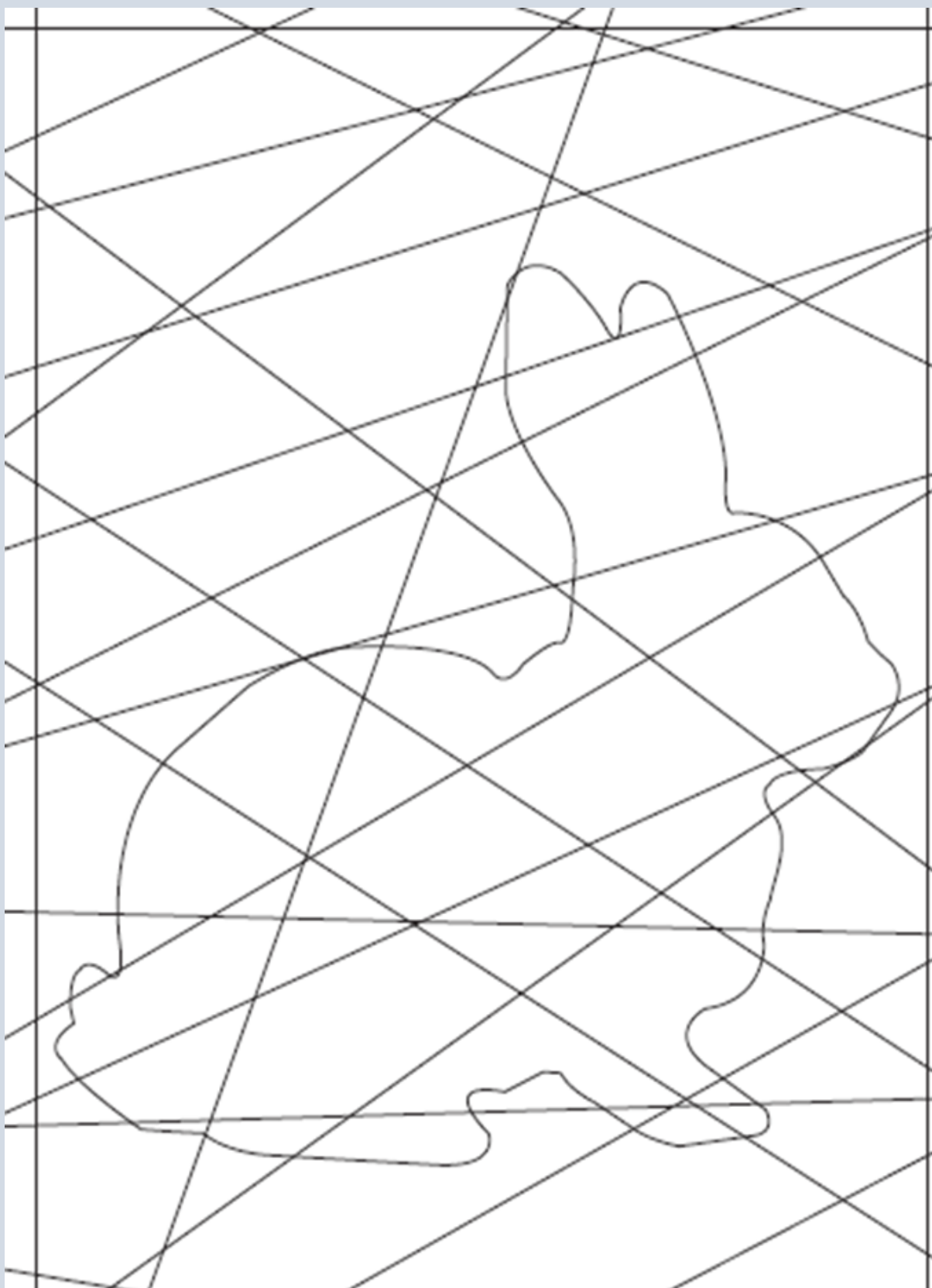
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Easter Colouring



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Staff Notices

New Starter

My name is Alicia. I am the new HR Co-ordinator at Lighthouse School. I have a strong educational background, working in the secondary education sector for nearly 15 years within various roles.

Since retiring my professional dancing shoes at 18 years old, I love spending my time outdoors in nature, going for long walks and working out.

I am excited to be a part of Lighthouse school and I am looking forward to growing with the organisation.

Meet Lighthouse PTA staff



Louise Jarvis
Student Support Administrator



Tracy O'Brien
SENCO



Natalie Smith
Well-being Co-ordinator



Chelsey Schofield
**Safeguarding and Family
Support Officer**



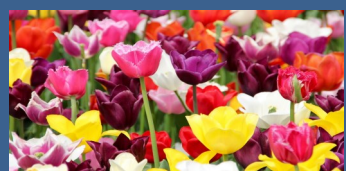
Jessica Pemberton
Assistant Administrator

If you are interested in joining the PTA or would like any more information regarding the PTA please contact the school office.

Ambition | Versatility | Compassion | Innovation | Happiness | Devotion | Optimism | Respect

Lighthouse School, Arthington House, Hospital Lane, Cookridge, LS16 6BQ

0113 4570605 admin@lighthouseschool.co.uk



PTA News

The Christmas Fayre raised an amazing £2503.55. Thank you to all parents and staff who supported the event.

Since September the PTA has funded -

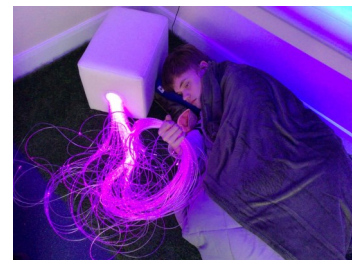
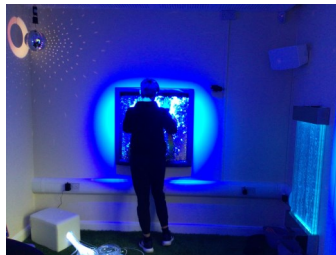
- Clay putty for use in wellbeing sessions.
- Decorations for the Christmas tree in school.
- A gimbal for use with the school camera, which is used to make high quality and professional videos in drama, creative media and for filming school events.
- £3,500 for the refurbishment of the Wellbeing 1 suite, which will benefit all students in accessing a safe, calm space to practice regulation strategies in order to support their mental wellbeing and ensure they are regulated and ready to learn.
- £1950 to train three new Teen life facilitators to offer the Teen Life programme from the National Autistic Society for families.

If you are interested in joining the PTA , please contact the school office or email the Beacon Team

Wellbeing Room Funded by PTA

This last term a lot of hard work has gone into revamping our Wellbeing sensory space! It has had a complete makeover, and now has lots of exciting new features for our students to use! Some of our new equipment includes;

- Colour changing light and bubble machine
- Fibreoptic light seat
- Sonos music system
- Scenic window stickers
- Vibrating cushions
- Sequin wall
- Fake grass area
- New beanbags and blankets
- Eye masks that can be heated/cooled
- A new diffuser with a range of different scents
- Brand new selection of fidget/fiddle toys



It has been used to support targets in some of our Wellbeing sessions, with one group in particular working on 'being able to say how they feel about sensory experiences', as well as 'practicing a relaxing activity'. It has also provided a safe and calming space for staff to run student interventions and mentoring.

All of our students have now had the chance to explore it, and we have had some great feedback - 'great improvement' 'wonderful' 'calm' 'amazing' 'relaxing' 'WOW!' Thanks to our PTA for funding this project.

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Save The Date for a 10 years of Lighthouse Celebration

We will be holding our 10 years of Lighthouse Celebration on Saturday 20th May from 11am to 2pm at school.



If you would like to donate a suitable raffle prize or maybe know of a business or company that would, please contact the school office.

Upcoming Events

Friday 31st March 2023

Non-Uniform Day

Friday 31st March 2023

Break up for Easter Holidays

Monday 17th April 2023

Return to school

Monday 24th April 2023

Beacon Parent Event

Wednesday 3rd May 2023

Shine

Wednesday 10th May 2023

Shine

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