



THE HOLMEWOOD SCHOOL



**National
Autistic
Society**

**Accredited
Advanced
2020**



Newsletter

Friday 04 February 2022

Dear Families,

We've come to the end of another great week at Holmewood. I've enjoyed spending time at both sites dropping in on lessons and seeing what the students have been up to. I've particularly enjoyed talking to students about the LGBTQ+ poetry they have been learning about in English, and I've seen some brilliant art work for Chinese New Year. I was also very pleased to hear about some excellent mock exam results from our year 11's who have been working so hard to prepare for their GCSEs. Well done to all.

Earlier this week (Wednesday) I wrote to all families about our current spike in Covid-19. Please read my letter carefully as we are now on some additional measures in agreement with Public Health England. These include the wearing of face coverings in lessons and in communal areas for ALL who are not exempt until we break up for half term.

Please stay alert to any letters from Simon or I to advise you about testing or isolation for your students as the virus is circulating around class groups once again. Please continue to encourage your child to test themselves twice weekly with lateral flow tests. Any positive results should be reported directly to Simon, Bridget or I.

Please also stay alert to the three main Covid-19 symptoms and do not send your child to school if they are displaying these symptoms. These include:

1. High temperature/fever
2. A new and continuous cough
3. Any new loss of taste and/or smell

Best wishes for a happy weekend.

Ms Camilleri

Executive Head Teacher

Dates For Your Diary

- **Fri 11th Feb** - Last day of half-term
 - **Mon 14th - Fri 18th Feb** - Half-term holidays
 - **Mon 21st Feb** - Spring term (2nd half) starts
 - **Tues 22nd Feb** - Spring cafe (Lower School)
 - **Thurs 3rd March** - World Book Day
 - **Mon 14th - Fri 18th Mar** - STEM week
 - **Mon 21st - Fri 25th Mar** - World Autism Awareness Week (WAAW)
 - **Fri 25th Mar** - End of spring term
 - **Mon 18th Apr** - Bank holiday
 - **Tues 19 Apr** - Inset day
 - **Wed 20th Apr** - Summer term (1st half) starts
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Angry Drivers

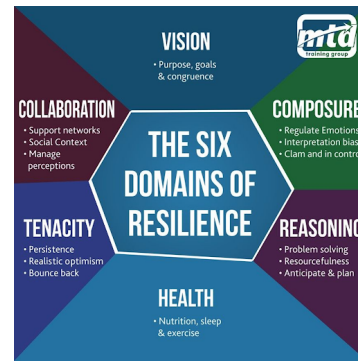
I heard something recently that really stuck with me and I wish I could remember who said it so I could give them the credit they deserve. Anyway basically whoever it was said that 'angry drivers must be the most optimistic people because they travel through life thinking that everything will always go their way'.

I wouldn't call myself an angry driver, but driving in London isn't exactly a relaxing task. I will admit that when I drive I tend to give a constant verbal running commentary about everyone else's driving skills, with some colourful adjectives added in for labelling purposes. Pedestrians, people cutting in, red lights and cyclists all tend to feel like a personal affront. What can I say? Perhaps I am an optimist.

Out of all of the six domains of resilience, 'composure' is probably the one I find most difficult. That is to say, it takes conscious effort for me to measure my responses in the moment.

It helps me in my role because I feel empathy towards

our young people, many of whom share this trait. Of course, it also has its downsides.



What I have been saying to the young people is that composure, or emotional regulation, is a super power that can get you a long way in life. Being able to overcome an initial emotional reaction and maintain composure gives you the brainspace to access your ability to think critically and solve problems. Remaining calm during life's smaller challenges, such as driving in London traffic, frees up energy and it takes energy to conquer the larger challenges in life.

One thing I do notice in our older students is their increasing ability to regulate their emotions. This is pretty impressive when you think about their difficulties and needs. Of course this has not happened by chance, but rather is the outcome of proactive input and reactive strategies that are put in place within a safe and understanding environment.

I can only imagine how diabolical I would be if I had had this sort of input as a teenager. At the very least I would be able to drive down Holloway Road without swearing.

Parent's LGBT+ Session

Thank you to everyone who joined us this week to discuss LGBT+ issues. We really enjoyed the discussion. A special thanks to Mx Ingram for the excellent presentation.

You can find our presentation here - [Parent LGBT+ Session](#)

If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email our Stonewall Ambassadors.

Ms Bridget Young - byoung@thsl.org.uk

Mx Mattie Ingram - mingram@thsl.org.uk

If you were not able to attend, please do let us know if you would like us to run it again.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Ms B Young

Head of Upper School

Topical Talk

Topical Talk gives free teaching resources for weekly classroom discussions about current affairs and gives children the chance to join inspiring online discussions with peers and topic experts from all over the world.

The adaptable activities help the news make sense for learners aged 9+. For maximum impact, combine Topical Talk teaching resources with the Student Hub.



Your child will be bringing home a consent form soon for you to complete and return. This will allow us to sign up your child to the scheme. Please ensure you have responded before February half term.

Thank you!

Ms Wiltshire

Circle Class Teacher



Northern Class have had a very busy January.

Our students completed their GCSE mock exams over four weeks. They have demonstrated excellent resilience, perseverance and maturity throughout the whole process. We couldn't be prouder of them!

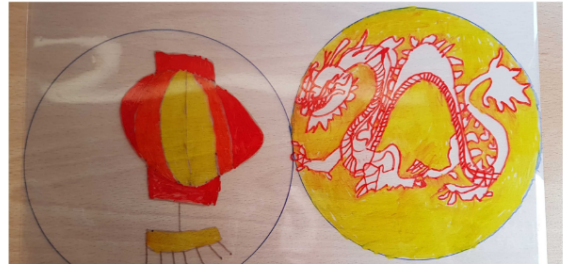
After finishing their exams everyone went back to their regular timetables straight away, finishing their adverts in BTEC and creating evaluation forms for constructive feedback and working on some incredibly promising Art projects.

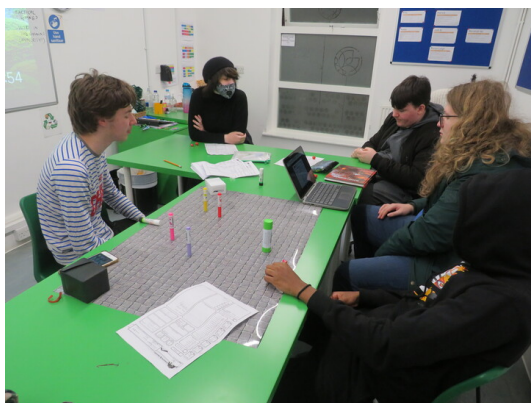
Staff and students have had some really competitive badminton matches in PE which gave students an opportunity to practise their skills as referees and team players. We celebrated their excellence and the end of a very difficult few weeks by having a joint pizza party with Bakerloo. It was also an opportunity to celebrate Tayo's Sweet Sixteen, which is tomorrow, Saturday 5th!

Hope everyone has a lovely and relaxing half term!

The Holmewood Gallery















Designated Team For Child Protection And Safeguarding

If you are a student and have been harmed, or are at risk of harm, these are the people who can help. You can also talk to us if you are worried that another student is at risk of harm.

Lower School			
			
Ms D'Silva (Assistant Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Lemposzek (Head of Welfare & Behaviour, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Mr Gibbs (Humanities & PSHE Teacher, Deputy DSO for Lower School, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)
Upper School			
			
Mr Lamb (Deputy Head and Lead Designated Safeguarding Officer for Upper School, Level 3)	Ms Young (Head of School and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Young (Assistant Head and Deputy DSO, Level 3)	Ms Camilleri (Executive Head, CEOP Ambassador and Deputy DSO, Level 3)

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