

Lighthouse News

2020 -2021 Issue 2



A Message from the Principal...

Welcome to the spring edition of Lighthouse News. I am not going to pretend this has been an easy term for students, parents and staff. The January to March Lockdown was difficult for so many of us, in so many ways and the dark nights and cold adverse weather did not help.

School remained open and over 60% of students accessed the onsite provision, whilst other students remained at home full time and accessed remote learning. We understand how challenging this was for both students and parents and carers. Many of our staff were juggling the same, with work and children at home, and limited access to key worker provision. Despite the challenges, I was very pleased that the school community pulled together to support our students. Parents and Carers, we really do appreciate all you did to support your child to continue their learning and engagement with school.

I hope as the spring flowers are beginning to bloom and now the students have returned to school full time, both students and parents are able to begin to put these last few months behind us and focus on what we all hope is a safe and brighter future ahead.

School staff were so excited to have all the students back on site on the 8th March. Although all the restrictions are in place from the autumn term, plus some additional ones such as masks and lateral flow testing, students have quickly got back into routines and are enjoying school life. School will be focussing on the wellbeing of students and the recovery curriculum this term to continue to support students successful return to school.

I hope you can see from the newsletter that despite the challenges, students have been making progress and achieving this term often in very creative ways!

Take Care and Stay Safe

Emma Sullivan

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Curriculum

Home Learning

We are incredibly proud of what we achieved together during lockdown. It has not been easy, but thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff - and parents/carers - the vast majority of Lighthouse students have regularly accessed and engaged with learning during lockdown. This is a significant achievement and will have reduced the impact lockdown has had on pupil academic progress. Our engagement rate with home learning was higher than many mainstream schools, and significantly higher than many specialist settings. Many parents have sacrificed a lot during lockdown to support their child in accessing remote learning, and this is greatly appreciated by Lighthouse staff.

Thank you for providing feedback on our blended learning provision via the survey we shared. 90% of respondents thought upload and live lesson were of high quality and 100% felt that Lighthouse staff were proactive in supporting their wellbeing and responsive to their needs. 80% of respondents felt the increase in live lessons in lockdown 3 was beneficial to their child and 97% felt all changes were well communicated to the school community. We really appreciate all the feedback and suggestions for how we can improve our provision. Thank you also for sending shout-outs to staff members. They really helped bring a smile to staff member's faces.

We appreciate that for a select few students, engagement with academic remote learning will have been highly challenging in the difficult circumstances. We will continue to provide support in a range of ways to these students/families and are looking at ways of compensating as soon as possible.

There were numerous examples of amazing work that students produced during lockdown. However, teachers wanted to give a special mention to the following students for really going above and beyond:

Here's a few for Sixth Formers

- Gio doing his Joe Wick's workouts as part of his Friday enrichment activities.
- Rhianon's rainbow cake.
- 5A's passion for Macbeth.
- Hannah's engagement with live lessons

For Computing:

A shout out to the following students in Key Stage 3:

Ruben, Alex E, Oliver, George and Thomas R for consistently handing in Computing work to a high standard.

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For GCSE Computing:

Harry W, Matthew and Jonathan for working really hard on their GCSE Computing work over lockdown.

For English

KS3 – Oscar N, Zenko and Luca for their hard work in English, they always attended live lessons with a smile.

KS4 - Antonio for his enthusiasm in live lessons and for consistently producing work to a high standard.

KS5 – Gio and Thomas C, they both contributed well to the live lessons and produced some fantastic work.

For Food: The amazing work shout outs go to William and Thomas H.

Congratulations to Oscar Nolan (Year 7) who is our "Sports Performer of Lockdown!!" Throughout the period Oscar made sure he was on time to all live lessons and would then politely greet each of his classmates as they arrived. From a practical point of view, Oscar's attitude to work hard and complete all work hasn't gone unnoticed as he grows into a role model for his peers.

Topic – How Plants Grow – Pollination & Fertilisation

14 January 2021
14:44

3 - The 5 stages of pollination

Write at each number what is happening

- 1: Pollinator comes
- 2: stuff gets stuck to the bees legs
- 3: then the bee rubs the nectar on
- 4: then it travels down the style the stigma
- 5: then it goes to the ovary to make more seed

4 - Watch video together

5 - Click on link and try quiz tell me here how you did - <https://lighthouseschool.co.uk/pollination-and-fertilisation-quiz/>

Such good work Josh you are doing excellently

Science work on Class Notebook by Josh PC



William practising his cooking skills whilst at home.

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World Book Day

In Science, one of our students has made it through to the next phase of a national STEM competition. Before Christmas, KS4 and KS5 entered a STEM challenge, coming up with some excellent solutions to allow remote working at a nuclear power plant. Jonathan's idea of a robot to clean the power plant remotely, impressed the judges and he's been invited give a virtual presentation to the judges. Caroline Maston said: "Jonathan should be really proud of his progress so far and is currently working hard on his presentation using the judges' feedback."

Students in 3A and 3B are currently working on the Lego Mindstorms Robotics Challenge. Competing against mainstream schools, the students have to use their robots to complete challenges as well as presenting to the judges. This year the national competition is happening remotely. A team from Lighthouse enters annually - last year Lighthouse won their regional heat and made it to the final. The 3A and 3B have a tough act to follow but so far, they're proving to be excellent engineers, coming up with some great ideas and demonstrating problem solving skills.

Time Capsule

Students in 3C have dug up a time capsule, offering a glimpse into what Lighthouse life was like in 2016. Key Stage 3 students decided to include photos of the school and staff, a list of the students' favourite music and games, drawings, and Jason's article about the history of the building, when they buried it in July 2016.

The capsule was dug up so the leavers could see it before the end of the school year, and prior to the removal of the mound, where it was buried. The capsule is to be buried again to be discovered in the future.



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On Thursday 4th March we celebrated World Book Day via remote learning. Students were allowed to dress up as their favourite book character. All lessons incorporated a World Book Day element to the learning. In English we had a writing competition. We had many fantastic entries but the winners are as follows:

Amelia and Milan from Key Stage 3
Thomas and Joshua from Key Stage 4
Jason and Katie from Key Stage 5.

The overall winner was William (KS3) with his entry below:

The year is I really don't know now but my guess it's 2079. World war 3 started back in March 26 2023, but that's what I think but what I do know is that the war ended in May 12 2057 but the damage has already been done. Now it's kill, or be killed, I've been running with this group for the last 5 months, but I'm considering that I might leave but who knows. 2 years back I ran with this other group for 11 years they save me at the age of 15, my mum died when I was a kid and my dad well I watch him die and it wasn't soon enough. Mark was the who saved me, I at least made a friend named John who I considered as a brother. We just like outlaws and we were we rob the rich and gave to the poor, Mark who was our lender had a plan to go somewhere called Guarma where we could go if we get a enough money, we did a heist in what's left of new York but turns out we had a rat, two members got killed in the shootout Josh and Logan. Logan was very close with Mark, John and I got out and we all met up back at camp but mark had snap I don't know what happened but all I know is that the man who saved me doesn't exist anymore. We set up camp somewhere else and things got worse then John got sick he had some type of cancer. Then Alex who has been running with us for 7 months started whispering in Marks ear and it turns out he was the rat, he tried to make me and John look like the rat's we had a shootout me and John were able to escape on our horse but they got shoot, John said we could go back for the money so we did and what a mistake that was, we got there and we got attacked by Alex he shoot me in the shoulder and then he stabbed John. Alex and John fought it out with knives, Alex over powered John and stab him in the chest at that moment he told me to run and I did mark show up not long after John laid there dying Mark had fully lost it and just walked off leaving John to die, Alex then pulled out his revolver and I watched helplessly as Alex shot John point blank in the head. I sat there for 2 hours, I buried John on top of a hill where he can face the sun. I never saw Alex and Mark but I hope they're dead, and now I roam the world... well what's left of it.

Well done William!

All winners will receive a gift voucher of their choice.

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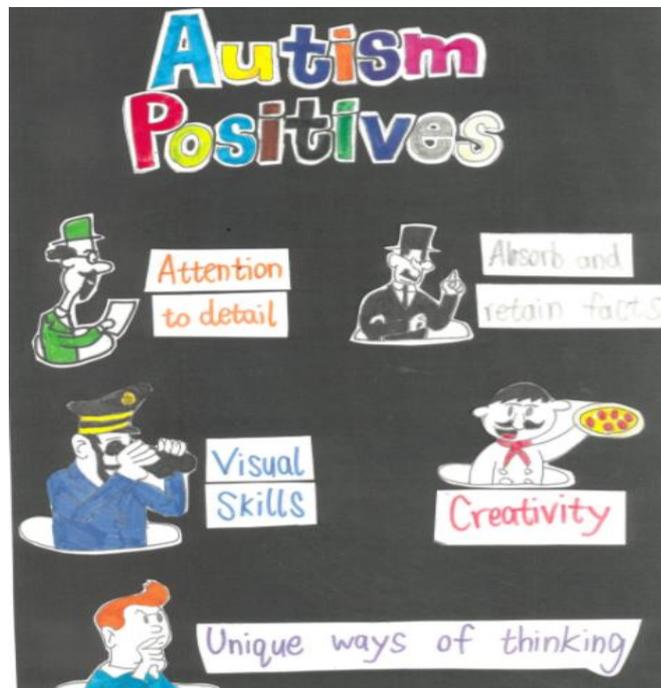
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Art

Cameron won the KS4 Art Competition with his 'Winter Scene' drawing.



Hugo's Artwork for
Autism Acceptance Week



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Staff Notices

Interview with Beverley Davidson (our new Cover Supervisor)

Thomas R: **What is your role exactly?**

My role is a cover supervisor. There are two main parts to this role. The first part is to step in and cover for teachers and tutors when they are off work. The second part is to help organise who else will be covering all the different lessons each day. So, part of the time I am in the classroom and part of the time I am in the SEN office doing admin work. I have also been helping out with covid testing, so you may have seen me in the hall doing that as well.

Vito: **What's Your Favourite Game?**

I like playing all the 90s platform games that I grew up with on my phone or tablet – probably my favourite is Sonic the Hedgehog 2, which I have finally managed to complete – I didn't manage it when I was younger!

Antonio: **Do you prefer, BBC Iplayer, Disney+, Paramount+ or Discovery+, YouTube or Netflix?**

I like Netflix best of all because I love crime dramas. I think Netflix has the best crime dramas like The Serpent, Dexter and Breaking Bad.

Jason: **What are your past jobs and other occupations?**

Before I was a teacher, I used to work for an insurance company assessing injury claims. When I started training new members of staff, I realised I enjoying teaching and helping people a lot. So I went back to university and trained to become a secondary English teacher. I then taught in mainstream schools for five years. Although I really enjoyed it, I preferred working with smaller groups or one to one, rather than big classes. So I started tutoring in my spare time, helping students who may have fallen behind at school and need to catch up. I still do this now, alongside working at Lighthouse.

Tom C: **What inspired you to come and work at Lighthouse?**

I found about the job at Lighthouse through an agency that I was signed up to. I told the agency that I was looking for a job where I could teach students in small groups or classes, and that I particularly enjoyed teaching students with SEN. When this role came up, I thought it sounded perfect for me. When I came in for the interview I really liked how kind and friendly everyone was, so I was really happy to get the job.



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Governors

New Governor – Jamie Darby

I've worked in a range of schools for over twenty years and currently work at East SILC as the Head of the Post 16 provision there. Whilst at the SILC I have worked alongside Lighthouse School for the past few years, and we have often shared good practise and always been keen to support each other. I am keen to be a Governor as I am committed to ensuring all young people in Leeds have the best chance to make progress in life. I hope to be part of a team that helps learners at Lighthouse to do this.

Outside of work, I have a love of books and a lifelong passion for music. I also love travelling and hope to get away soon!



New Governor – Matthew Hirst

I'm Matthew Hirst and I sit on Finance, Audit and Health & Safety committees. I work as a construction project manager for a local consultancy. I have a particular interest in the school estate and supporting the school in making the most of such a great facility. My other interests include walking, running, orienteering and tending to our allotment.



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Employability, Careers & Youth Voice

On Tuesday 2nd February 2021, as part of our ongoing comprehensive careers programme and employer engagement project work with *Ahead Partnership*, we hosted a live Employer Speed Networking Event. Despite the lockdown and the snow fully closing the school on the day, our students showed great versatility in attending the event virtually from their homes.

Seven employers met with twelve students to give them an insight into their jobs, organisations, and careers. These events are a fantastic 'win-win' for all involved: students and school staff learn more about job pathways and the diverse range of opportunities available whilst the visiting employers gain insight and confidence in engaging with SEND young people and the wealth of talent that our students would bring to their work place.

This year, the employer volunteers have told us that being involved in these virtual events with our students has been a huge 'lifeline' for them. Many of them have been working from home for many, many months seeing the same colleagues on the same video calls week-in-week-out. Joining a virtual event with Lighthouse School has given many of them a real 'boost' and been a highlight in their home working weeks.

In the next phase of this careers programme project work, some of our Sixth Formers will be undertaking mock interviews with employers – quite a virtual challenge!

During National Careers Week (1st – 5th March 2021), the Employability team launched virtual training sessions for our staff in using the *U-Explore Start Profile* careers platform. This contributes to our whole school approach in being a destination-led provision and provided staff with more confidence supporting our young people in understanding and developing their Employability skills and next steps choices.

Parents/carers were also given the opportunity to access a series of remote information, advice and guidance sessions throughout National Careers Week via zoom. These sessions included presentations from: Department for Work and Pensions on Access to Work and the Disability Confident scheme; Lighthouse Futures Trust on Supported Internships; and SENSAP, who talked through the EHCP process and their role in supporting students to transition to their next provisions.

Many thanks to all that attended, and do contact the School if you'd like more information about any of the School's employer engagement activities and careers work.

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Wellbeing



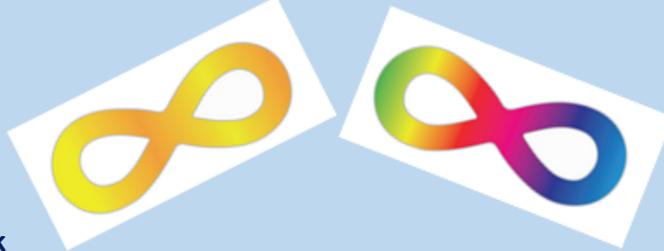
RSE

Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) has always been a really important part of our curriculum and has now been made statutory by the government. It has been really difficult to do some of this teaching remotely so will be a big focus for the whole school in the Summer Term. We will be running sessions for students around growing and changing (puberty) alongside understanding relationships. Look out for your group specific information on the What We Are Learning document and if you have any questions please email kirsty.heys@lighthouseschool.co.uk

We are also going to be sharing key information with parents and running a consultation around our new draft policy – look out for updates soon!

To find out more about the changes, please visit:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907640/RSE_secondary_schools_guide_for_parents.pdf



Autism Acceptance Week

Our Student Council team is leading on our Autism Acceptance Week from 29th March where we will be celebrating all the au-someness of our autistic and neurodiverse community. Students will be designing their own infinity symbols on bunting, learning about inspirational autistic people, and celebrating their personal strengths in form times. They will be understanding more about their sensory profiles in Wellbeing and PSHCE sessions. On the last day of term students will 'dress to express' in either rainbow or gold! We hope to share this fantastic work through our family Facebook page during April.

There will also be the start of an exciting revamp to our reception area led by our Art Team and students to reflect our values and the contribution of inspirational autistic people through history.

Student Voice

Lighthouse School Student Council 2021

Separate but together!

We have launched a Student Council group on Microsoft Teams with student council members from every area of school to join together virtually.

Last year's Student Council petitioned for extra equipment for break and lunch and Jack has managed to secure some funding for this so, once health and safety restrictions are lifted, students will be able to access more activities and clubs during these times.

Student Council members will be gathering input from students across school about what they feel the new priorities should be for the council.

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Looking after your mental health



The resilience our students and families have shown over the past year has been extraordinary! We couldn't be prouder of how our community has responded to the pandemic and we all know, more than ever, how important it is to look after our own mental health and be kind to ourselves and each other.

MindMate 

For young people: <https://www.mindmate.org.uk/>

MindMate is here to help young people in Leeds find help with their mental health and wellbeing. Approved by young people across the city, this website is your one-stop shop for top tips to support your mental health and find further information about what you can do on any of the following topics:

- Staying healthy throughout the current pandemic
- Anxiety and worries
- Sleep troubles
- Feeling angry
- Self-harm
- Drugs and alcohol
- Body image

In school we use the MindMate lessons to support understanding that everyone has to look after their mental health, just as we look after our physical health! On the website there are different sections for young people themselves, family members who want to help and professionals to gain advice.

childline

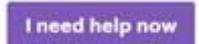
ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME

Call 0800 1111 or visit www.childline.org.uk

Mindwell

For adults including students over 18:

Everyone's mental health is important. For adult support with mental health needs visit <https://www.mindwell-leeds.org.uk/>

If you need immediate help or support, click the  button

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Emotional Support for 11-18 year olds.



How can I get support with Teen Connect?

You can get support with us in three different ways:

- Call on **0808 800 1212** – if they can't pick up, leave a voice message and they will call you back as soon as they can
- Text on **0771 566 1559** and a member of staff will let you know when someone will be available to call or chat online with you.
- Go online at <https://www.lslcs.org.uk/services/connect-helpline/teen-connect/> and click the 'chat now' button



Whatever you're going through, call them free any time, from any phone, on 116 123 or visit their website <https://www.samaritans.org/>

Connect helpline

Connect is a telephone helpline open **6pm-2am every night of the year** for people living in Leeds. The service provides emotional support and information for people in distress. You can call them on: 0808 800 1212 or visit <https://www.lslcs.org.uk/services/connect-helpline/> to use their text chat option



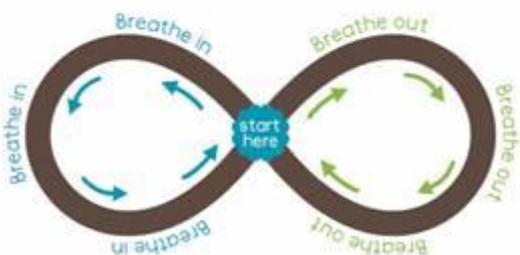
Simple breathing techniques to help you feel calm...

LAZY 8 BREATHING

Start with the eight on its side and start in the middle

Go up to the left and trace the left part of the 8 with your finger while you breathe in.

When you get to the middle of the eight again, breathe out while you trace the right part of the 8 with your finger.



For more ideas visit: <https://copingskillsforkids.com/deep-breathing-exercises-for-kids>

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Recipes

Chocolate Easter Egg Nest Cakes

Preparation Time: 30 minutes

Cooking Time: 10 minutes

Makes: 12

Vegetarian

Ingredients

- 225g/8oz plain chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 50g/2oz butter
- 75g/2¾oz cornflakes
- 36 mini chocolate eggs

Method

1. Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.
2. Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth.
3. Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.
4. Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour, or until completely set.



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Arts & Crafts

#thegreatbigartexhibition

This online exhibition is open to everyone - all abilities and ages. It has been organized by **Firstsite** Colchester and was launched by the artist Anthony Gormley on 'The One Show' recently. It involves making an artwork and displaying it in your window for all to see.

The online exhibition is until May 7th 2021 and you can enter for the following themes: -

Colourful entries 1st – 14th March

Humour 15 - 28th March

Flowers 29th March – 11th April

Draw the future! 12th April – 25th April

For more information go to **The Great Big Art Exhibition – Official Site – Firstsite**

Parents will need to supervise and be involved, as this is an exhibition outside of Lighthouse School. Artwork is displayed on a public online gallery.

Parents can download the exhibition pack online, this gives details of how to submit your work online. Parents can submit work on behalf of their children.

OR if preferred, you can just decorate your window for fun and not enter the exhibition!

Below is my own entry (for the Colour Category) which has been submitted to the online gallery.



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