



Newsletter for Parents and Carers

September 2011

Welcome Back

I hope you all had an enjoyable Summer and that this new year will see us build on the successes we had in our first year as The Bridge School.

Gordon Cochrane, our chair of governors, and I have been meeting with representatives from the Local Authority to establish what plans are being put in place for us to ultimately be on one site. We are currently undergoing strategic evaluation of both sites to see if it is possible for us all to move onto either the Secondary or Primary sites. Although this seems possible in principle there would be a need for substantial capital investment. We are therefore investigating many different alternatives and when I know anything further I will let you know. In the meantime we will continue to make the best use of the buildings that we have, and to maintain and look after them. We have had some redecoration carried out on both campuses over the Summer break and we hope to share some information with you soon about the official opening of the Learning Resource Centre on Secondary Campus which the students started using last term.

As I explained last term I have tried many different variations on splitting my time on both campuses and although not ideal what seemed to work best was me spending one week on each. Both Simon Black and Viv Salisbury the Campus Directors on their respective sites should be able to help in any day to day enquires that you have but should you wish to contact me please phone the school office that your child attends and they will pass the message on to me.

Staff on both Secondary and Primary Campuses

We are really pleased to have Jacqui Davies back into school on a phased return to work following her completing her chemotherapy and radiotherapy during the Summer Term. She is starting with teaching on Thursday mornings and is slowly increasing her hours. It is lovely to see her back into school and she says it is lovely to be back.

We have had some new staff start with us at the beginning of the term and some staff have moved from Primary Campus to Secondary Campus.

On Primary Campus we welcome Sian Welby who is teaching Red Class. We also welcome Emma Barton who is the Class Teacher in Yellow class on Mondays Tuesday and Wednesdays and Sabine Sutton who is the Class Teacher in Yellow on Wednesday afternoons, Thursday and Fridays. As you know Sara Pells retired in July and we are pleased to welcome Simon Black as the Campus Director on Primary Campus. I am sure you will all give these new members of The Bridge School staff a warm welcome.

Two teachers from Primary Campus have moved to Secondary Campus, they are Lizzi Flisher and Christel Macaudiere. I am sure they will all settle into their new classes very soon.

Parents Evening/ Group

This terms Parents Evening will be held on Wednesday 28th September for Secondary Campus and Wednesday 5th October for Primary Campus. Separate letters will be coming home regarding appointments.

I would like to ensure that we have a good working relationship with all parents and carers because it is important that we know your thoughts and feelings about the school, what we do well and what we could improve. I'm also keen to provide the right support and advice that you want and would like to build on the good work we have already achieved.

If you have any areas or subject you would like us to arrange a meeting about please let me know.

I will be writing to you soon about forthcoming events



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festivals are planned for Thursday 6th October and Friday 7th October. The Primary Harvest Festival will be on Thursday 6th at 2.15 pm and the Secondary Campus Harvest Festival will be at 10.30 a.m. on Friday 7th October. Rev. Clare Sanders will be joining us on Primary and Rev Simon Robinson will be joining us on Secondary Campus. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are coming. We welcome donations of tinned, packaged and fresh food which we will pass on to a charity working with local people experiencing hard times. The charity prefers tins and packs because they are easier to store but will happily accept fresh food. If you are sending in fresh foods please send them on the day.



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Fund Raising

Pamper Evening



Following the very successful Pamper Evening last term we will be having another one on Wednesday 2nd November 7 pm until 9 pm at The Primary Campus in aid of The Bridge School and Hart House Special School in Gambia. There will be an opportunity to book treatments, purchase hand made goods, many items for Christmas shopping, jewellery, nail, art, reflexology and body and bath products. Suggested entrance donation of £1. Please let your family and friends know.

The Duke of York public house in Woodbridge Road Ipswich had a charity day on August Bank Holiday Monday on our behalf and raised a very impressive amount of nearly £1000. They will also be holding further fund raising events on our behalf. Outside their public house they have a bottle bank that anyone can use and they have nominated The Bridge School to receive the proceeds they make from this for the coming year.



After School Club

The After School Club at the Primary Campus has started up again after the Summer break. Amy, Michelle and Clair have welcomed back many of the children who attended last year as well as some new faces. The After School Club currently runs on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays after school from 3.00 p.m. to 5.40 p.m. The children have opportunities to take part in art and craft activities, play outside, go to the studio or soft play, watch DVDs, have a snack or just relax and take it easy.

We were offering the ASC every day but when the Year 6 students transferred to the Secondary Campus this left spaces that have yet to be filled so we have reduced the days to three days. We would like to increase the days back up to five if the demand is there. If you would like more information about the After School Club please give Amy a call on: **0795 664 8536** or leave a message with Reception.



Thank You

We would like say a special 'Thank You' to Darrin Mills father of Toby Mills on Primary Campus for making two wonderful Resonance Boards for the pupils on Secondary Campus. We would also like to thank his father in law Peter Mumford who, along with his Jazz band 'The Gipping Valley Stompers' played at the Celebration day when Sara Pells retired.

Activities Unlimited

On Saturday 1st October Activities Unlimited will be having a Family Festival at the Kesgrave Community and Conference Centre. The aim of the day is for families to try out different activities and meet Activities Unlimited providers. The cost is £3 per person including lunch (under 5 free). Please book early as places are limited. For more details see www.activities-unlimited.co.uk . To book a place please call 01473 832971.



School Meals and Social/Life Skills Money

At the time of writing I am not aware of Schools Meals price changing and so they will remain at £2.10 per day and should be paid on a Monday for the full week in advance. Should you wish to pay half termly or termly please contact the school office.

As you know we offer the pupils/students a range of drinks and snacks which they can choose from during snack times and they regularly go on class outings where they often have the opportunity to have these snack sessions in cafes and restaurants. We would therefore be very grateful if you could send in £1 per week towards the cost of these purchases.

Please remember to help the office staff by sending all monies that you send into school in an envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked on it.



General information

Please can you ensure all items of clothing are named including shoes and if your child uses pads or nappies that you send in a packet of wipes. Staff will make you aware when you need to replace them. If your child is going to Respite Care directly from school please put a note in your child's home/school diary so that the class are aware early in the morning to prepare your child.

It is also useful if you are also able to highlight if there is any medication in their bag so that this can be locked away as soon as they come into school.



Many thanks for your help with these issues.

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STARS

Sonia Stephens who runs STARS has asked me to remind you about what is on offer for the students on the Secondary Campus.

What's available?

After school Club 3.30-5.25pm (11-19yrs) Tuesdays and Thursdays

Youth club 6.30-8.45pm (16-25yrs) on Wednesdays

Holiday clubs 10am-3pm (11-25yrs)

STARS will be holding their AGM and Awards Evening 7pm, 11th October 2011 At Kesgrave War Memorial Community centre, Twelve Acre Approach, KESGRAVE, Suffolk IP5 1JF. Everyone Welcome to help celebrate the young peoples achievements and learn about the work of STARS charity, as well as how you can support STARS.

During the October Half-term holiday STARS will be holding the following activities for young people aged 11-25yrs;

Tuesday 25th 10-3pm

Swimming/Art/Craft/Music Workshop – Cost £10

(£8 members)

Wednesday 26th 6-8.45pm

Swimming/Art/Craft/Music/Cooking- Cost £8

(members £5)

Thursday 27th 10-3pm

Swimming/Art/Craft/Music/Cooking- Cost £10 (£8

members)

STARS Require an Assistant Support worker 3-5.30pm Tuesdays and Thursdays for After-school club, please contact Sonia Stephens for further details on Tel: 01473 691947 Email: starsbelstead@btconnect.com

Dates for your diary



Wednesday 28th September – Parents Evening
Secondary Campus

Wednesday October 5th – Parents Evening Primary
Campus

Thursday October 6th – Harvest Festival on Primary
Campus at 2.15 pm

Friday October 7th Harvest Festival on Secondary
Campus at 10.30 am

Friday October 21st – Break up for Half Term

Monday 31st October – Pupils return to school

Wednesday 2nd November – Pamper Evening Primary
Campus 7-9 pm

I hope you find *The View from The Bridge* useful and informative. If you have any ideas for items to be included in the newsletter please let me know

Swimming Lessons For children with Special Needs

Teamipswich Swimming is a registered charity that has been working with disabled children for over 5 years, teaching them to swim at affordable prices with support from charitable grants. They offer swimming lessons for children with physical or sensory special needs and also children with mild to severe learning difficulties. The Swim School runs various sessions on Wednesdays, Fridays and weekends around Ipswich. There is a free trial session during term time for all new swimmers and the prices are £60 for a 12 week term, plus a nominal, one off ASA swimmer registration payment.

If you would like more information please contact Elizabeth Christian 07906 652511 or

disabilityswimming@ipswichswimming.org

www.yourchildcanswim.co.uk

Elizabeth is aware of some of our pupils as she has occasionally been able to provide swimming teaching cover on Primary Campus and she has worked with students from Secondary Campus too.



And Finally

We had a wonderful final week at school in July when we celebrated Sara Pells' Retirement. We had the Sports Day, Cream Teas, leaver's assemblies followed by a fun day on Primary Campus. Sara really appreciated all the cards, presents, flowers and well wishes and she has asked me to send these few words to you as her thanks.

"As you all return to school, I wanted to thank all of you for the tremendous, thoughtful and loving activities you arranged for my retirement. I was overwhelmed by the presents, flowers, cards and words spoken about me.

"Thank you" seems inadequate for the care, understanding and love you showed to me. I would like to especially thank all the parents who contributed to my garden vouchers and orchid which is still in bloom. I have written to the Staff and Governors separately. Thank you once again and I wish a good and positive future for The Bridge School in the years to come. With love and best wishes."

Sara



