

Autumn Personal Development Newsletter 2019



Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. There have been so many curriculum and enrichment opportunities for our students to develop their skills and enhance their everyday experiences. The newsletter has a new title as we now celebrate our 'Personal Growth' in these pages and acknowledge the wonderful achievements of all of our young people.

Please continue to look at our website and Facebook Social media page for constant updates on the fantastic day to day work of the young people at Springwater School.

Student Council update

Students have now voted to elect this year's Student Council. We welcome Sophie, Jamie, Jake, Ebonie, Matthew, Thomas, MollyAnn, Jessica, Piran, James, Yazan and Mac to take the lead on our pupil voice this year and would like to congratulate them for being elected into our amazing Student Council.

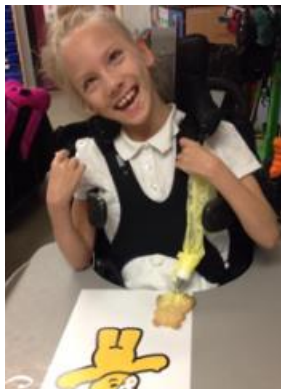
Students have already been busy organising special charity events and ensuring the whole school take part in our fundraising by setting each class themed challenges to complete; for example – the Christmas Jumper Day art competition saw each class creating fabulous festive jumpers to adorn the school corridors.

Students have launched this year's project. In the past we have set up a sensory assembly, created the crystal reward system and now we are embarking on a project to complete a student passport recording all of the opportunities students think they should access in their time at Springwater School. There is a voting box in the hall for ideas and the council would like to hear from students across school.



Charity Focus

Our students have worked in each department to support local community causes and national and world wide fundraising projects to help those in need. They work together to create memorable occasions and opportunities to celebrate with their families, friends and carers. We have been lucky to hold many of these events through our Five Trees Café and would like to thank you for your continued support in this Sixth Form enterprise activity. In this last term, school has raised over £300 that has been sent to Children In Need, Breast Cancer Research and Save the Children. We also collected a large number of food parcels and special gifts that were delivered to the women's refuge in Harrogate – a charity that supports women and their families with emergency living accommodation and advice when in crisis. The copper collection was as competitive as ever, with Swaledale winning the most crystals for collecting over £14 in pennies. Well done!



Specialist focus

Students in school have access to working with Kerry, our Music Specialist. She delivers interactive and engaging sessions to our students and this supports their communication, interaction and self esteem whilst developing peer skills and working with others. We have seen fantastic listening skills from our young people as they tune into the instruments and join in with playing and singing.



PSHE

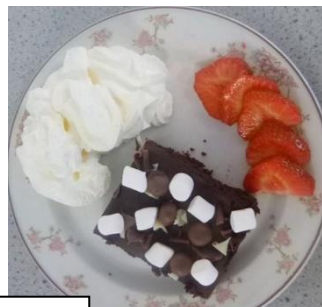
As part of our PSHE curriculum we have had some drop down focus days across the term. Time has been spent thinking about our mental wellbeing and how we can promote this in our own lives – students and staff thought about how being active, learning, giving, taking notice of those things around them and connecting with other people can have a positive influence on their lives. School raised £77 on Mental Health Awareness Day to support our school link Compass Buzz in the work they do with young people across North Yorkshire.

We have also had the opportunity to think about being kind to others and preventing bullying in our school, linking crystals with positive characteristics like kindness and showing respect. Students took part in sessions around safety in the home, drug and alcohol awareness as well as recalling their prior learning from last year about CPR through the British Heart Foundation project.



Healthy Living

Healthy living is a massive part of our curriculum in school and we often think about preparing food; from using switches to operate kitchen utensils to following sequences to make meals and developing independence in these skills. Students choose healthy snacks and show their preferences for a variety of foods. We have been involved in several sport events this term including the Swimming Panathlon, Boccia and the Multisports event. Students were victorious bringing medals back to school and really enjoyed the event. Groups worked fantastically in their teams, celebrating their own successes and cheering on the opposing teams, too. They worked well together and showed great enthusiasm and team spirit. Well done everyone!



Aspirations

Sixth Form were thinking about their aspirations and some students expressed their interest in media. They visited Radio York and even experienced the studio and talking on the microphones. Aspiration and moving on events have begun, so continue to look out for opportunities to think about your futures and the activities you would like to be involved with.



Remembrance Day

Students took part in activities around Armistice Day on the 11th November and observed the quiet time in school as a mark of our respect. Educational visits that week were themed around visiting cenotaphs and experiencing the presentations of poppies and their significance in our lives.



RE Focus: Judaism and Christianity

We have taken time this term to think about Christianity and Judaism. We have developed understanding of other faiths and respect for all people in a sharing of human values. Students thought about Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot – exploring the celebrations that go on around this time for Jewish people. Our students built huts, tasted apples dipped in honey and heard the sound of the Shofar. Sixth form students visited a Synagogue as part of their learning and this is planned for all of school in the coming term. Students have also explored 'Christians at Christmas' which culminated in a sharing of their learning at the Christmas Service at St Andrew's Church. We sung carols, shared food, thought about some holy readings and talked about the special day belonging to Jesus.

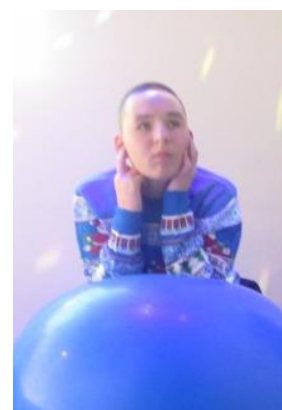


Christmas Performances

Students shone in their end of term 'Christmas Showcases'. We had 'Elmer in the Snow' from Primary. A Secondary Christmas: Past, Present and Future with songs from the past and robots from the future.

Sixth Form demonstrated their hand jive in Grease – walking us through the musical with key scenes and brilliant choreography.

We hope you enjoyed the shows!



End of term activities

Classes have enjoyed visits to Stockeld Park, Pendragon, Energi Trampoline Park and cinema afternoons. We hope all of our young people across school have enjoyed these special occasions.



What an incredible term! Enjoy a restful Christmas break and we will see you all back in school on Tuesday 7th January 2020. Merry Christmas!

