



Where a love of learning grows

Spring 2 Newsletter

We are very proud to share with you what has been happening at Ashton House within the second half term of spring. This has been a very short term, however lots has been happening for our young people, including a residential trip!

I hope you and the children have a lovely Easter break. Please refer to the key dates within the newsletter to prepare yourself for what is coming after the half term break.

Joe Knowles
Assistant Head – Ashton House



What has happened this half term?

Red Nose Day – To raise awareness and money for Sports Relief, Birch Wood Grange Drive took part in a weekday reading marathon. As the Sports Relief theme involved Little Miss and Mr Men, we thought it was the perfect opportunity to involve the classic books in our marathon. Every class at the Grange Drive site engaged with a Little Miss or Mr Men book each day for 26 days. On the actual day we also had a non-uniform day where students and staff alike made voluntary donations towards the cause.

World Down Syndrome Day – On Tuesday 21st March, Birch Wood School celebrated World Down Syndrome Day – a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

The date for World Down Syndrome Day being the 21st day of the 3rd month was selected to signify the uniqueness of the triplication (trisomy) of the 21st chromosome which causes Down syndrome.

A wonderful video was put together with input from every class at Birch Wood School (please click here <https://fb.watch/jwhzPgiLkT/>) to support this year's theme which is "with us not for us". This theme emphasises how decisions about our young people should be made with them and not for them and the importance of giving them the skills to be able to make their own decisions.



Autism Awareness Week – On the final week we took part in World Autism Acceptance week. This year's theme was "A spectrum of colour". To celebrate we had an Autism Celebration day on Friday 31st March. On this day we invited all staff and students to wear



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"a spectrum of colour". Students took part in different colour themed activities throughout the day. Photos will follow on our Social Media pages.

Lea Green Residential

Students from The Yard, The Den, The Sand Martins and The Swifts went to Lea Green for their residential. This involved student staying at Lea Green from Wednesday 29th to Friday 31st where they took part in lots of different fun activities, including "The Sky line", Rock Climbing, Abseiling and High ropes! As well as these amazing activities, the young people were given the opportunity to socialise with different peers of Ashton House, practise their life skills and spend time away from their families for the very first time! They all did amazingly well and we are very proud of them.

Student Voice

Tegan R – "The residential has been good. My favourite activity was the "Sky line" Because it took me out of my comfort zone but I still managed to do it. I've enjoyed spending more time with my friends and staff. I've surprised myself with being able to cope with being away from home and being away from my dog."

Joshua B – "The residential has had some fun stuff; I think the rock scrambling was the best, as it seemed the most dangerous. I've really liked spending more time with Sos, Aimee, Julie and Poppy. I saw rabbits during our night walk which was really cool."

Kale R – " The Residential has been a new experience for me as I've never done this before. My favourite was the 'Rock Scrambling' because it was a good challenge and we got to see an amazing view at the top. I think I have coped well and I have enjoyed the quietness of the cottage."

Joel T – " I have enjoyed residential. I'm Looking forward to high ropes, on the last day, the most. It's been really good spending more time with people from Ashton House and its the first time I have been away with school. Its been great getting to know Kayne and Dylan more and also catching up with Noah."

Stuart T – "Rock scrambling was my favourite part of the trip because of the view that we saw at the end. I am also really proud of myself for being able to do the abseiling so well, as I was worried, but now I feel like I really accomplished something. Trying to go to sleep was difficult, but I think that's because it was a new place, but I persevered."



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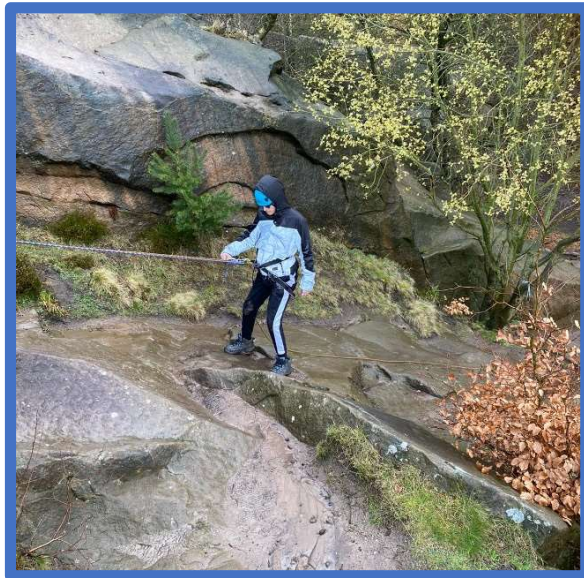
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Birch Wood
Ashton House

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Running for Birch Wood:

On May 20th, Tom Bradley-Hewell, Head of School at Birch Wood Grange Drive, David Grimes, Network Manager and Jordan Meads, BWV Nurture Teacher, will be running a marathon at the peak district.

None of us have completed a marathon before so to provide ourselves with some additional motivation, we would like it to benefit other people. We have decided to try to raise money to purchase outdoor equipment for Birch Wood School! If you would like to donate, please feel to click on the below link

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/birchwoodschool?utm_term=gYwYXAebd



Key Dates next term

Monday 3rd- Friday 14th April	EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 28th April	Undiagnosed Children's Day (SWAN UK)
Monday May 1st	Bank Holiday
Friday May 5th	PMLD Awareness Day
Monday 8th May	Coronation Day Bank Holiday
29th May- Friday 2nd June	HALF TERM
June	Preparing students for transition to new classes and teachers where appropriate
May 15th- June 16th	Exam period
30th June	School Reports
30th June	Employability Day
4th (GD) & 5th BWV/AH July (proposed)	Sports Days
July 12th	Prom
Thursday 13th July	School closes to students
Friday 14th July	Staff INSET Day- school closed to students