

2021



Dear students, parents and carers,

Welcome to our summer newsletter! This term we have seen all students return to full time education and enjoy some local community visits as COVID restrictions start to ease. It has been great to see students and staff excited about going out into the local community and gaining confidence in accessing public transport once again. Two students at Hammersmith Hub have started a new work experience placement at The Tiny Forrest, in Hammersmith Park. Wandsworth Hub have been going swimming and accessing mini golf as a group to develop peer interaction and establish friendships.

With the improving weather students have also been appreciating the garden at Hammersmith Hub. Some students have been learning to do gardening and others have been enjoying their normal sessions out in the sun, doing arts and crafts, fitness and football sessions.

Summer term has been very busy as the social enterprise scheme has expanded to include sales on Etsy. There have been a total of 862 views to the BeyondAutism Etsy page, 340 visits to the Etsy shop and 20 orders totalling £177 revenue. This money will be invested back into the scheme and will allow for new initiatives next year.

We have had two new students join us at Wandsworth Hub, who enjoy peer interaction, communicating with staff and share a love for all things 'food'. Four new staff members have been appointed across both hubs in the last term. All have settled in well and improved our service, bringing new personalities, ideas and thinking. We have all enjoyed getting to know them over this term.

As Post-19 continues to grow, we have appointed Russell Irving as Deputy Head for September 2021. He is looking forward to further developing the curriculum and Post-19 offer. Clare Lee will also be joining the team as full-time Administrator and Admissions Officer along-side Francesca Sharkey.

We also have exciting news to share about the new additional hub for September 2021. Avon House Hub will be located just around the corner from the current Wandsworth Hub. It has great cooking facilities and is close to local transport links and the Wandsworth area. This Hub will provide opportunities for students to establish a wider friendship group and for us to deliver more curriculum options for students. We are finalising the list of students, who we think would benefit from this environment and will be in touch with parents to arrange transition visits for students next week. We will not have full access to Avon House until end of August 2021.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during this year. I hope you and your family enjoy a well-deserved summer break and I look forward to welcoming back all students on Tuesday, 7th September 2021.

Best Wishes,

Elizabeth Robinson
Head of Post-19

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Staffing update

Elizabeth Robinson, Head of Post-19

Russell Irving, Deputy Head of Post-19

Sofia Rey, Deputy Head/ABA Consultant (on maternity leave)

Katie Moriarty, ABA Consultant (maternity cover)

Sarah Larner, Head of Pastoral (2 days a week)

Francesca Sharkey, Post-19 Administrator

Claire Lee, Post-19 Administrator and Admissions Officer

Tom Bailey, Head of Therapies and Speech and Language Therapist (on maternity leave)

Isabel Hale, Occupational Therapist

Georgia Sutherland, Speech and Language Therapist

ABA Supervisors (recruiting for 2 additional Supervisors)

Robert Yorke, (4 days a week)

ABA Instructors

Charlie Feigen

Liam Lusted

George Williams

New staff

We have welcomed the following ABA Tutors: Conor Lusted, Gudrun Isabel Humphries, Martha Lucia Aguilar Sanchez, Imani Kinshasa, Stephen Sylvester, Alena Schurings, Eszter Beck, Sargun Wadha and Rebekah Louise Haggard.

Leavers

We are sadly saying goodbye to the following Tutors: Georgios Kostikas, Anass Najmi, Anton Klasson, Esha Bhandari, Luxika Rajeswaran, Saara Rauf, Zoe Tyrell and Isabella Eatherden,

We are also saying goodbye to Lisa Curtin (ABA Supervisor) and Dominic Gatward (ABA Instructor).

We wish everyone the best in their future endeavours!

Term Dates

Autumn 2021

*INSET days: Wednesday 1st – Monday 6th
September*

Term starts: Tuesday 7th September

Half-term: Monday 25th – Friday 29th October

Term ends: Friday 17th December

Spring 2022

INSET day: Tuesday 4th January

Term starts: Wednesday, 5th January

Half-term: Monday 14th – Friday 18th February

Term ends: Friday 1st April (12:30pm)

Admissions

Since September 2020 we have had 8 new students across our Post-19 services. We currently have 10 students based at our Hammersmith Hub and 16 students based at our Wandsworth Hub with 5 additional new starters confirmed for Post-19 from September 2021 – informal assessments are still ongoing for potential 2021 placements.

2021

Updates from the Hammersmith hub



With the relaxing of COVID restrictions the students have been more able to go into the community. This has meant that two students have been able to start new work experience placements working with the gardeners to help keep Hammersmith Park and the Tiny Forrest well maintained. All the other students have been learning employability skill from taking part in the social enterprise project. They have been making cards and keyrings to sell on the Post-19 Etsy page.

As the weather has improved students have been making good use of the garden at the Hammersmith hub. Many students have been learning and practicing gardening skills. Lots of students have had their normal teaching sessions in the garden to give them a change of scenery from the classroom.



The Hammersmith Hub has undergone some changes this term. Staff have rearranged the furniture in the Hammersmith hub which has allowed the hub to feel more open and a comfortable environment to learn in and allowed more space for learning. With the help of our new OT Izzy we have refurbished the sensory room at the Hammersmith Hub so that it provides a calm and comfortable environment for our students to regulate their emotions in.

New Chair of Advisory Board

We're delighted to announce the appointment of Will Glover as our new Chair of Post-19 Advisory Board.

Currently Head of Education and Qualifications at The Royal College of Surgeons, in his almost 30 years in education Will has worked in the Primary, Secondary, FE and HE sectors, in the maintained and independent sectors and in day and boarding schools.

Having held a number of senior posts, his career has been truly international and Will has worked globally on every continent, most recently serving as Director of Academic Quality and Governance (APAC) for Kaplan Inc. based in Hong Kong, a post that he held concurrently with his role as Academic Director of the Consortium of North American Universities based at Northeastern University in Boston USA.

A Magistrate on the Surrey Bench and a Trustee of the Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust in London, in 2021 Will was appointed by the National Lottery Communities Fund to the Grant Awarding Panel providing Covid-19 response funding and support within the London Borough of Hillingdon.

A Governor of Fosse Bank School in Kent and a Panel Member at the Heathrow Community Trust, Will is also the Strategic Advisor to the School of Life Sciences at the University of Roehampton.

Living himself with an ABI (Acquired Brain Injury), Will has been highly active in his role as a Trustee of Headway Surrey where he is a vocal advocate for the empowerment of those living with ABI to be given every opportunity to live full and engaging lives in which they have choice, control, independence and opportunity.

Will is delighted to be taking up the role of Chair of the Post-19 Advisory Board and looks forward to working with other members of the Advisory Board, the Post-19 Leadership, staff team, students and their parents/carers.



Updates from the Wandsworth hub

As COVID restrictions have continued to be lifted the Post-19 Wandsworth hub not only maintained the quality of work done indoors but also focuses on increasing the activities could be held in the community.

Access to community:

Our main goal is to let students have access and interests that could be held in the community and help them be incorporated successfully. To achieve it the hub

members have already started running some activities outdoors. These activities are both for groups of students and for individuals.



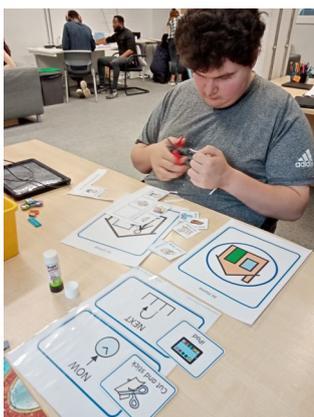
Characteristically, some students have already started having regular leisure activities outdoors, such as swimming and visits to the cinema. At the same time, there is a group of students going to play golf at Wandsworth Park every week. Aiming to increase the community time for all students, this term a swimming pool group activity has taken place. The hub's goal is to help students spend out doors as much time as possible.



Work, Employability and contribution to the society:

During the pandemic, access to the work environment wasn't as regular for the learners. However there is at least one student working in a professional environment to gain work experience with his Tutor's support. Aiming to develop all students' work related skills a social enterprise workshop has started in the hub. In this workshop, students can gain work experience making, cards, soaps and key rings which can be sold online.

Regarding the contribution to the society a great number of students are engaged in a litter picking activity in the area near the hub. This activity has been supported by many members of staff to let the students take vocational training and work-related experience in an environmentally friendly way.



The Education in the hub:

Last but not least, even though our hub aims to increase the community time of the students outdoors they are engaged in many activities to help them be more functional and independent in the future. These activities include, money calculation, waiting appropriately, shopping using a shopping list, and cultivating their verbal communication. Furthermore, more students are engaged in indoors leisure activity such as, music, painting and puzzle making. This aims to increase their interests and help them express themselves.

A word from the charity

Tracie Linehan, CEO

An amazing term where so much has been achieved. We have welcomed our new Chair of Governors, Audrey and Chair of the Post-19 Advisory Board, Will. These Boards and the Board of Trustees are now supported by our new Clerk, Ruth. The Board of Trustees is also now at full complement with Rosemary, Amran and Christine joining Karen, Angus, Andy, Victoria, Donna and Roz. All of our Trustees are volunteers, dedicating their time and a fantastic breadth of expertise to ensure that we make progress towards our vision: where everyone with autism accesses an education, which empowers a life full of choice, independence and opportunity; by delivering quality education and training services, underpinned by ABA.

The Research and Learning team, together with the Marketing team have been extremely busy this term. I was delighted to open and close the BeyondAutism professional conference, held online in May. The conference was a great success with a good variety of topics and speakers. More information can be found on our website including how to access some of the sessions on-demand (beyondautism.org.uk/beyondautism-professional-conference-on-demand/). You can also now access our podcast series on Apple, Spotify and Google podcasts (just search for the BeyondAutism Podcast Series). We are beginning to reach far and wide and have been delivering outreach support to mainstream schools across London and out to Oxfordshire.

The Fundraising team never sit still – raising the money to run our Early Years' Service to the tune of over £200,000 a year is no small feat, whilst also generating donations towards the Park House School Capital Appeal and securing 2 mini buses for the services to use. There are many ways in which you can help and support our efforts, please take a look on the support us section of the website (beyondautism.org.uk/support-us/).

We have exciting plans for Year 2 of the strategy (Sept 2021 – Aug 2022) that include developing our people, piloting a nursery provision, securing premises for Sixth Form, opening further Post-19 hubs, launching our employability tool kit, welcoming 4 new interns... to name just a few.

Hopefully, with the country emerging from the COVID pandemic, I will be able to see you all in the autumn term.

Recent funding successes and updates

Though it already feels like a lifetime ago, we'd like to kick off by thanking our Royal Parks running team who took on the virtual run back in April: Sarah Fox, Sarah Kaikini, Liz Burns, Carl Busby, James Cain and Johnny Costa – who between them raised over £5,100!

We are also delighted to share with you the news that The Masonic Charitable Foundation have provided a generous multiyear grant totalling £48,996 towards the ongoing work of the Early Years' Service. We hope this funding will allow us to increase the number of community visits the team are able to make; spreading positivity and understanding of autism.

As part of ongoing redevelopment works at Park House School, we are thrilled to announce that sufficient funding has been raised for the creation of a new, modernised kitchen in the basement of the school (a year earlier than planned!). Works will begin in the summer holidays – ready for the children to use and enjoy upon their return in the autumn. We are grateful to everyone that has supported this project. We cannot wait to see the new learning space takes shape! Watch out for updates.



