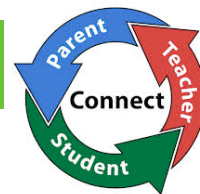


Cavendish Connect

The Cavendish High Academy Newsletter / Autumn 2023



Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to the very hot and muggy autumn term everyone!

There has been a lot going on around the school so I'd best share all of our news from the end of last year and the beginning of this one.

Welcome to all of our new students who joined us this week in years 7 and 8. We hope you will enjoy your time learning at Cavendish.

Transition

We fully appreciate how difficult change and transition can be for everyone. Over the past few months, it has been made more complicated as we had a few staff leaving and then several joining us – some not until now in September. Additionally, we have increased numbers. The school was originally built for 60 students. We then had an extension to accommodate another 30 students (including specialist dedicated classrooms) so 90 students in total, but we now have 109 on our roll and to fit everyone in we have lost a number of our dedicated classrooms (Cookery room, science/practical room, de-escalation quiet rooms & multisensory room). For these reasons a full school transition was unable to take place until September as we simply didn't have the class space or staff to support this.

School Building Works

To ensure we can provide the best possible education and learning environment for your children we need our dedicated specialist rooms back at Cavendish. The new build is not intended to increase our roll any further; it is for us to provide these essential specialist spaces once again for the children already in the school. To that end we have been working closely with the local authority. I am delighted to finally confirm that planning permission was granted for the demolition of our double garage and for two new interlinked rooms to be built in its place. This is significant building work, funded and supported by the Local Authority, that started over the summer holidays and will continue to take place over the course of the next academic year.

As you are aware we have had to make accommodations to minimise disruption whilst the building works are ongoing, including a review and adjustments to school drop off and pick up organisation, as the school car parking space is extremely limited. Many thanks for all your understanding and support during this time. We really appreciate it.

Congratulations to.....

Our Leavers

Our wonderful student Leavers enjoyed a variety of special occasions to celebrate their time at Cavendish including picnics in the park and meals out, along with a sleepover in the bungalow and as always, a very special Leavers assembly – though this year we had two assemblies as for the first one we had our visitors from Ofsted in. It is always an emotional time for everyone in school as well as for our families and carers and students. We wished them all goodbye and good luck for the future as they will now go on to have some amazing times whilst learning beyond the gates of Cavendish at places such as PettyPool College, Riverside College, Myerscough College and Activate.

Congratulations to Lyla Magdy!

Lyla initially set herself (and the staff supporting her!) a challenge to teach 50 businesses or organisations sign language. Over time this expanded to a 100 businesses or organisations. At the end of the summer term with a big last push Lyla's dedication finally paid off when she completed her challenge. She has presented and taught BSL to hundreds of people over the past couple of years including Blush, The Guardian & the NHS. What an amazing achievement. We are all very proud of her.

The Legends that are The Jolly Boys....

Have been at it again; they are champions and heroes in all our eyes for all of the fantastic support they give to Cavendish in so very many ways. It is not only fundraising at events such as the Easter bingo that we are grateful for and the donations of Easter eggs and sports water bottles for all of the students but for the time that they dedicate to helping the students who come to Cavendish. One great example of this is following bird flu restrictions being lifted and after the devastating loss of our hens to a fox, they gave their time freely to completely refurbish and rebuild our hen coop and made a wheelchair accessible path through it so all of our students can get in there to spend time with the new brood we have hatched.

Head Jolly Boy Jason Burns also very cleverly and kindly made us a bespoke portable wheelchair ramp so that our students who use a wheelchair can access places such as our local shop, Ascot Stores, which would otherwise remain inaccessible.

I know you will join me in thanking each & every one of them so very much for doing what they so selflessly do for the students of Cavendish.

Staffing

At the end of the last school year we said goodbye and good luck to.....

Nic Harrington (teacher): After 12 years at the school Nic is leaving us to take on a new challenge. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Nic so very much for all she has done for the students and school and her beaming smile and general positivity will be much missed.

Martin Wilson (TA): We also say goodbye and good luck to Martin who joined us during the Covid years. After 4 years with us he is now off to pastures new. We wish you every happiness and success for the future in your new role.

Sean Curran (TA): Sean has been our regular supply TA for a few years, and he has brought a wealth of experience with him to the role and been a great member of our staff team. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to Sean and to wish him a very long, healthy and happy well-earned retirement after his career of public service.

Rachael Cullen (CSW): We would like to wish Rachael goodbye and good luck as well as she moves area to be nearer family and takes up a new position after a year with us at Cavendish.

Stacy Craig (TA): Goodbye and good luck to Stacy as she moves onto a new challenge at a different school.

A very warm welcome to

Teachers: Debbie Southern, Alicia Markwell, Tom Hackney, Vicky Lyon & Tamzin Woolstencroft.

Some of them may well be familiar to you: Debbie is currently working in our SOUL suite so some of you will already have had the pleasure of meeting her. Those of you who were able to join us for the open evening in the summer term may also have met the new teachers as they were all thankfully able to join us for the evening.

Congratulations to

The following teaching assistants who are joining our permanent staff team: **Patrick Bratin, Nathalie Jean-Gomez, Hayley Cahill.**

Governors

We are delighted to welcome Jamie Campbell to the Board of Trustees of the Academy as a co-opted community governor. Jamie is the head of Bluebell Park Special School in Knowsley and brings additional wealth of knowledge and skills regarding teaching and learning and management of special schools to the Board.

We also welcome Karen Twamley as an associate governor. Some of you may well know Karen from her time in role as the school nurse for Cavendish.

We need you to help ensure we can continue to provide the best education we can for your children. We still have a second vacancy for a parent governor. Would you be interested in the role? If you would please contact us and we can let you have some more information about what it all entails and/or you can speak to our current governors who will gladly share their experiences of being on the board.

Diary Dates

A quick reminder that the autumn term dates are as follows:

Autumn first half term: Monday 4th September to Friday 27th October

Autumn half term holiday: Monday 30th October to Friday 5th November

Autumn second half term: Monday 6th November to Thursday 21st December @1.30pm

Also, a quick reminder that the Whit holiday later in the year is two weeks long next year. We break up on Friday 27th May 2024 at usual time and return on Monday 10th June 2024.

We will share more dates for the term in the next week or so.

Ofsted

As you will all know we finally had our inspection visit from Ofsted last term on the 27th and 28th June. The last time they visited us was in March 2017, so it was long overdue. Many thanks to those of you who shared your opinions with Ofsted. The inspection report will be live on the Ofsted website in 7 days. In the meantime, we can share the report with you, and we will also publish it on our website; as we are required to do. I hope you will agree that the report is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the whole staff team and the governors at Cavendish.

Final thanks

A final thanks to you, for all of your support over the past year and as we start this new one. We couldn't do our job so well if we did not have your support and we didn't work as a team in the best interests of every one of our young people.

Take care,

Elaine & all the team at Cavendish