



Dear Parents / Carers,

## Welcome to the first ever Springwell Harrogate newsletter



We have completed our first term together and I am writing today to voice all the successes we have made. Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to the new staff who joined us in January. The impact made by these individuals on the quality of provision has been incredible! The happiness on the faces of our learners during what has been a difficult time for everyone is testimony to the efforts they have put in. Secondly I would like to thank the staff who have stayed with the school and taken on new and expanded roles. Again the impact of the work we have done this term is supported by increasing attendance and engagement in lessons. Every member of staff has gone above and beyond and helped build a truly nurturing environment for those learners under our care. As the new head of centre I am excited to walk through the doors and see what amazing things happen each and everyday in the classrooms. And am relishing the challenge of developing the best possible provision for the young people who are placed with us.



Alex Bentley

Head of Centre



As this is the first Springwell Harrogate newsletter, I thought I would take this time to introduce myself, Scott Jacques. I am the Executive Principal for Springwell Harrogate working alongside Alex Bentley and the Principals of Springwell Leeds Academy to ensure that we provide the best possible education we can for your children. I have experience of teaching and senior leadership in Primary, Secondary and Special education as well as ten years work in school improvement with Leeds City Council. I was also a Head of School at an outstanding special school in Leeds, before joining the Wellspring Trust as an executive leader working at the Forest Academy in Barnsley. I spent two years as Executive Principal of Phoenix Park and Sevenhills Academies (which are alternative provisions like Springwell Harrogate) before joining Springwell Leeds Academy before it opened in 2016. I then became Executive Principal of Springwell Harrogate at the start of this school year. Despite the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, we have been able to secure some significant improvements this year. There has been a major investment in the building, giving a much better, fresher feel to the classrooms and learning spaces, plus an investment in new ICT equipment for pupils and staff. Having Springwell Leeds and Harrogate working together means we are able to share resources, training and support across the two which enables both academies to do more and do it better. The possibilities this partnership creates means we can look forward to an exciting future for our staff and students.



Scott Jacques

Executive Principal



# A round up from our staff

It's been a very exciting term setting up a new school and welcoming four new very talented TA's to our small team. The Y10/11 pupils are now able to enjoy yoga on a weekly basis set in a calm and relaxing atmosphere with candles and scented lavender. (They are far more flexible than our staff yoga club which takes place on a Wednesday after school).

The ODE groups have shown increasing confidence in their climbing skills at Brimham Rocks, mountain biking around Swinsty Reservoir, experiencing the bush crafts in Fox Wood cooking sausages and marshmallows on a campfire.

Cross curricular activities within Maths and Food Technology is well under way within the ASDAN lessons. We enjoyed Group C's measuring skills in the special Easter crispies today which was a great contrast to last week's bacon butties. The English/Art lessons have created a wave in the arts world with a recent "LIKE" from Antony Gormley with "My Field". Science and Art are also nestling nicely touching on optical illusions and psychology.

The environmental work supervised by a very knowledgeable gardener Anna Gugdan is progressing beautifully with frogspawn now in our school pond. Our chilli seeds are tendered caringly in the classrooms as are the spinach and lettuce in the green house. I gather some potatoes will be planted this week and will be ready in June.

We launched our sensory room recently which is a very special place to us all. One pupil who enjoys the tranquility there is holding a "Wear a Hat Day" for Charity this Friday. This is something he understands and wants to give something back to. We will be seen down our "cat walk" strutting our stuff wearing some item on our heads!

We are all looking forward to the summer term and already planning new engaging learning experiences to keep smiles on everyone's faces."

*Mrs Kersey - Lead teacher of Arts and English*

"We launched our sensory room recently which is a very special place to us all. The money for the larger sensory purchases has been raised by people in the local community. The pupils appear to really respect that the items were bought with people's own money. All the pupils have completed some work on their 'Window of Tolerance' in their Emotional Literacy lessons and looked at what it looks like for them. Our students can now see how the sensory room can help them when they are in hyper states to calm down and bring them up out of hypo states. The handmade framed paintings on the wall remind them how rhythm, repetition, routine and releasing can help them when they are emotionally dysregulated. The pupils have come to us with sensory ideas of their own now they understand this concept. A light pointer and a soft blusher brush have been added - all the young people's own ideas! Staff can be found there with the teal green light settings on with relaxing jungle sounds regularly!"

*Mrs Renfrew - HTA/ELSA/Wellbeing Champion*



# Our Half Term in Pictures

