



**Back to School**

After the Christmas holidays, school refusal was a topical story occupying the headlines in newspapers, radio and television throughout the country. Attendance Hubs and Emotionally Based School Refusal (EBSA) became part of a broader national discussion, and Alex was invited onto the BBC 6 O'clock News to share his experiences of working closely with this group of young people and their families. "Change is hard, we have to look out for the signs of children withdrawing."



A warm welcome to Liberty Morrison, our new Examination Administrator

**Access and Special Consideration**

Young people at the Day School have been provided examination entries this week. Through Access Arrangements and Special Consideration, we try our very best to ensure appropriate adjustments are made to minimise the impact that a medical condition might have on exam results. Please contact your Tutor or School SENDO if you are unsure of your arrangements. [sendco@royalfree.camden.sch.uk](mailto:sendco@royalfree.camden.sch.uk)

**Message from the Headteacher**

Our second term at Konstam is well underway and we've been incredibly grateful for all the positive media coverage we've received this half-term. One of the really positive effects of this is that it has strengthened the schools connections on both a local, regional and now national level. We've been trying to accommodate as many colleagues as we can who have been eager to visit the provision following the news stories. There is also still lots of other inspiring work going on across all areas of the school - the feedback on the Royal Free wards has been incredibly positive and our parent support work continues to develop. I have already informed some of you in person but this is my last year at RFHCS and the governors are now starting a recruitment process for a new headteacher - feels like a good time to handover now and we will keep you updated as this progresses. Can I take this opportunity to extend a huge thanks of appreciation to the support I have received over the last 10 years from the Local Authority and colleagues here, both at the Royal Free Hospital and Royal Free Hospital School. **Alex Yates**



[www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk](http://www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk)  
<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2024/jan/01/less-daunting-inside-the-new-education-unit-in-north-london-supporting-school-refusers>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx0vq01j3y9o>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0h7z958>

**Jack Petchey Achievement Award**

This term's winners of the Jack Petchey Award are Harsh Patel and Bonnie Broadway. Harsh is engaged with our Diabetes Service and is successfully completing a Pharmacy apprenticeship with the intention of eventually qualifying as a Pharmacist. Bonnie attends our Futures programme and has made exceptional progress in all aspects of her education since starting in September.



Latest update on access arrangements for exams.

What can parents and teachers expect for dyslexic students?

JCO Joint Council for Qualifications

Spring term 1	Tues 9 Jan - Fri 9 Feb
Spring term 2	Mon 19 Feb - Thurs 28 Mar
Summer term 1	Mon 15 Apr - Fri 24 May
Summer term 2	Mon 3 June - Mon 22 July
2023-24 INSET Days:	
4. Tues 23 July 2024	
5. Wed 24 July 2024	

Weds 21 Feb 2024	Exam Entry Deadline
Tues 20 Feb 2024	Parents' Exams Information Afternoon. 3.00pm
Tues 27 Feb 2024	Parents' Exams Follow-up Session 4pm on Zoom
Week starting March 25 2024	- In Person Progress Review Meetings
Thurs 28 March	- Celebratory Achievement Event - All Parents Invited
Sun 21 April	- Last date to apply for an entry fee refund for a student withdrawn from June 2024 exams

**Welcome Donation**

A big thanks to Magnus, Melissa and Clem who kindly donated a full sized snooker table to the school. This has made such a difference to the young people's social engagement, with sport and with each other. By playing mini championships the students are obtaining fine motor skills such as precision, focus and teamwork which are valuable key skills for life. May the best player win!



**Visit to the Young Victoria and Albert Museum**

Earlier in the term, young people from the Futures, Thomas Group and Paths programmes travelled to East London to visit the highly acclaimed exhibition, Travel through Japan: Myths to Manga, that explores Japanese art, culture, design and technology. Manga is very much part of the contemporary psyche of many young people today, with themes influencing their lives that include fashion, film, art and literature. It was therefore a great experience to see the history and origins of Manga first hand, providing insight into how Japanese culture influences our lives today.



**ArtsMark**

This week, our Creative Art Teacher, Holly, and our Arts Award Advisor, Meryem, attended the British Library for an incredible Artsmark training session delivered by Goldsmith University. The session not only sparked lots of exciting and innovative ideas on how to develop and enrich our Art offer, but was a wonderful opportunity to connect with other local schools, and Alternative Provisions, so we can create more shared learning opportunities and exchange good practice for the future.



**Careers Update**

Well done to our young people who have now all submitted at least 2 college applications, with many visiting their destinations of choice during open evenings or interviews. A huge thank you to Melanie Tye from the Education Development Trust for providing our young people with independent careers advice that enabled them to make informed decisions regarding their futures. For those considering the apprenticeship route, applications start as early as March, and individual meetings will be made to support this. For the latest information related to careers and destinations, follow the notices posted on the school's 'Academic Tutorial' Google stream.

**RCPCH Podcast talks up the School**

Consultant Paediatricians Jane Runnacles and Victoria Dublon are not only champions of our school, but also champions of the various quality improvement work that puts the young person and their needs first. Listen to their podcast recorded at the Royal College where they discuss the various and fantastic examples of co-creating and co-producing safety improvements in healthcare with our school.

<https://rcpch.libsyn.com/site/patient-safety-podcast-4-involving-children-young-people-and-their-families-in-making-healthcare-safer>



**LinkedUp Once Again**

Eight young people from local schools embarked on our 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the school's re-engagement programme, LinkedUp. This is a unique approach, linking teachers, music, drama, art, speech and language therapists and educational psychologists who collectively re-ignite an interest in education through a series of online activities that we know promote the re-integration of children back into mainstream education. "These sessions helped me a lot and I felt less alone with other students in the class."

