



BSPED and Diabetes Update

Last year, the school presented its work at the British Society of Paediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes conference on how we encourage family and young people engagement through promoting Diabetes Camps. At this year's conference in Glasgow, we presented our work on the success of Pizza Parties, which are now a regular feature in the classroom. We also managed to raise over £4,000 during the London to Brighton cycle, enabling even more families to attend camp.

Hospital Consultants' Away Day

In September, Konstam was used to host the Paediatric Consultants' Away Day. The idea was to promote teambuilding in an already cohesive department but also to provide an opportunity for staff to consider potential uses for Konstam, such as a location for parent and young people education and social days. These events are normally held within the limited space of the classroom on 6 North, and this new approach aims to maximize and promote community cohesion.



Student Voice is Loud and Clear

We place our young people at the heart of the decision-making process. Through Student Voice, we gather information for Learning and Wellbeing profiles and consult with students on key aspects of school life such as the physical environment and the timetable. During Collective Time, our 'You said, We did' approach helps us respond to feedback. These consultations guide future decision-making throughout the year.



Message from the Headteacher

It has been an incredibly exciting start to the year here at the Royal Free Hospital Children's School, and I am very grateful for the warm wishes I've received from parents and carers since starting the role in September. I have been amazed by the commitment and dedication shown by the staff in support of our young people, and it is this collective enthusiasm that so often empowers students to make great progress according to their personal goals.

I am incredibly optimistic about how our school will grow and develop over the course of this academic year. Crucial to this programme of development, particularly at the Konstam provision, where our students spend longer periods of time, is listening to the voices of our young people and their families. This ensures we reflect on the quality of the experience each student has as we strive to improve. This is a commitment I wish to uphold, as I believe the importance of developing a successful learning community requires such an approach in a school like ours.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have shown so far and ask that you continue to work with the teachers in the same collaborative and committed manner as you have to date.

I very much look forward to welcoming you into the school as we progress through the year and invite any questions to be directed to me through the school's administration team.

Very best wishes,
David Wilson



Results and Destinations

Boe and Bonnie, pictured above, received their GCSE exam certificates. Both made outstanding progress and have gone on to study Art and English at the sixth forms of their choice. This was our busiest examination season ever, with 120 individual exams sat over six weeks across six examination boards. Despite the challenging circumstances of the past few years, all our young people approached the exams with a great sense of purpose and maturity, with most securing positions in work, education, or apprenticeships. We were also very pleased to provide examination places for over 30 private candidates from within the local community; providing an affordable service for young people not attending school or college due to illness.

Intern Update

Kathryn Hunter, from Rollins College, Florida, started her 4 month internship in September, and has been very busy working with the clinical teams at the hospital. She has worked closely with Dr Kin Mann (pictured far right) developing a set of Asthma teaching resources after we successfully bid for a grant from the Royal Free Charity. She has also been central to the redesign of the paediatric Parent, Young People and Adolescent rooms, after securing funding from The Joely Bear Appeal.



New Appointments

We would like to introduce our new art teacher, Damian. Damian joins us with a wealth of experience, having previously taught at Oak Lodge School in Barnet. He is passionate about using art as a powerful vehicle to nurture creativity and enhance communication in young people. Amy also joins from Barnet as our new joint SENDCo/Assistant Headteacher. Additionally, Cameron now provides Music Therapy through the Nordoff Robbins charity every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. A very warm welcome to them all!



The Calm of the Outdoors

In collaboration with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHS) department, our photography group took on the challenge of bringing the outside in. Despite a wet autumn day on Hampstead Heath, we captured some stunning images of vibrant, autumnal, rain-soaked trees. These photographs will be used to add colour to the ongoing refurbishment of the CAMHS department on the ground floor of the Royal Free Hospital.



Community Links with Capel Manor

Throughout October, the school proudly celebrates the achievements and culture of people of Black heritage. Through assemblies, staff have been sharing their personal experiences of how their families came to the UK. Cherrelle hosted a vibrant lunch for staff, featuring jerk chicken, rice and peas, and Ital curry. This was a wonderful event for enjoying delicious food, deepening understanding of Jamaican culture and traditions, and strengthening our school community.



Pets as Therapy

Meet Julia and Dylan, who bring smiles and comfort to everyone at the hospital. We know that spending time with therapy dogs reduces anxiety, lowers stress levels, and can even promote the healing process. It also provides distraction from treatment, an opportunity to bond and a sense of companionship. Julia is dedicated to sharing Dylan's calming presence, knowing the incredible impact these visits have on wellbeing and recovery. We remain very grateful!



Jack Petchey Achievement Award

For dedication to their studies and a 100% attendance record, Lemmi was voted by both staff and students as this term's well-deserved recipient of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award. A keen artist, Lemmi has decided to use the award to take the entire Art class on a reward trip to a London gallery. Rihana was this term's recipient from the ward and has used the award to fund a number of pizza making sessions for young people with diabetes.

