Horizons Academy Bexley Newsletter

As we reach the end of another successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved and wish all our families a restful and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on **Thursday 3rd September**, when our new school start time of **9:00am** will come into effect.



Before we finish, I would also like to extend our warmest congratulations to Ms Abdullah on the safe arrival of her beautiful daughter, Luna**,** who was born on 16th July weighing 8lb 1oz. We are delighted for Ms Abdullah and her family, and we cannot wait to meet the newest member of the Horizons family! 💕

We wish a fond farewell to Mrs Wheeler, who will retire on 31st July after a remarkable career dedicated to supporting children, families and colleagues across Bexley. Mrs Wheeler began working in Bexley in April 2005 and joined LSEAT in November 2017, becoming a valued member of the Horizons team. Over more than 21 years of service in Bexley, she has made a lasting difference to the lives of countless pupils, families and staff through her unwavering commitment, kindness and professionalism. Just imagine the number of people who have benefitted from her dedication over the years. We are incredibly grateful for her contribution and wish her a long, happy and well-deserved retirement filled with joy, relaxation and new adventures.

We also say farewell to Mr Bolton, who will be retiring from his role as Premises Manager at Horizons. Since joining the school in January 2023, Mr Bolton has played a vital role in ensuring our school environment remains safe, welcoming and well maintained for pupils, staff and visitors. His hard work, reliability and commitment behind the scenes have been greatly appreciated by everyone in our community. We thank Mr Bolton for his contribution to Horizons and wish him a long, happy and well-deserved retirement.

A Warm Welcome to Tokyo – Our Newest Four-Legged Team Member!

This term, we have been delighted to welcome a very special new member of the Horizons community – Tokyo, our wonderful therapy dog, who belongs to our Hair and Beauty teacher.



Although Tokyo may be small in size, he has already made a huge impact across the school. In May, he completed his therapy dog training with Jenny Duckworth, Dog Therapist, supported by a team of enthusiastic and willing student volunteers. The students played an important role in helping Tokyo develop the confidence, social skills and calm temperament needed to become a successful therapy dog.

Students have thoroughly enjoyed being involved in the training process, learning how to interact appropriately with dogs, understanding canine behaviour and recognising the positive impact that animal-assisted interventions can have on wellbeing.

Tokyo can often be seen making his way around school, providing comfort, companionship and a welcome distraction during challenging moments. Staff and students alike have benefited from his calming presence, and he has become something of a celebrity around the academy. Whether offering a reassuring cuddle,

encouraging conversation or simply bringing smiles to faces, Tokyo, alongside Bertie-who has welcomed his new companion with open paws- has already become a valued member of the Horizons family.

We would like to thank Jenny Duckworth for her expertise and support throughout the training process, and of course all the students who gave their time, patience and enthusiasm to help Tokyo achieve this important milestone.

A Wildly Successful Visit to Wingham Wildlife Park



Our Primary pupils recently enjoyed a purposeful and enriching trip to Wingham Wildlife Park, providing a fantastic opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

The visit allowed students to observe a wide range of animals from around the world, including big cats, primates, reptiles, meerkats and a variety of exotic birds. Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent curiosity and engagement as they explored the different habitats and learned about animal adaptations, diets and conservation.



Students took part in educational talks delivered by zoo staff, where they learned about endangered species, the importance of wildlife conservation and how zoos contribute to protecting vulnerable animals. Many were fascinated to discover how animals have evolved to survive in different environments and were eager to share their newfound knowledge with staff and their peers.

As always, our Primary students were outstanding ambassadors for Horizons Academy. They represented the school brilliantly, asking thoughtful questions, demonstrating impeccable manners and showing genuine enthusiasm for learning. The trip was not only educational but also a wonderful opportunity to develop confidence, independence and social skills in a real-world setting.

Celebrating Our Year 11 Leavers



As another academic year draws to a close, we recently said a very fond farewell to our Year 11 students.

Before the formal celebrations began, students enjoyed a fantastic leavers' party filled with laughter, memories and opportunities to celebrate their achievements together. Thanks to Noise Academy's DJ equipment, many students enjoyed trying their hand at mixing music and showcasing their DJ skills. The afternoon also provided an opportunity for students to sign each other's shirts, reflect on their journeys and spend valuable time with friends and staff.

The celebrations continued with a delicious BBQ, allowing everyone to relax and enjoy a well-deserved treat after a year of hard work and determination.

We then gathered with families and staff for our formal Year 11 Awards Ceremony. The evening was a wonderful celebration of the resilience, growth and achievements of an exceptional group of young people.

Students were presented with trophies, certificates, Horizons sweatshirts and a range of special awards that reflected their unique personalities and contributions to school life. Awards ranged from 'Drama King' and 'Drama Queen' to 'Most Likely to Make a Million', alongside recognition for attendance, determination, progress, leadership and community spirit.



There were plenty of smiles, laughter and a few emotional moments as we reflected on the journeys many of our students have taken. For some, their path to success has not always been straightforward, making their achievements even more significant.

Despite the soaring temperatures, it was a truly lovely evening and a fitting celebration of a remarkable Year 11 cohort. We are incredibly proud of every one of them and look forward to seeing them on results day.

Looking Ahead – Year 9 Transition to Key Stage 4

As we prepare for the next academic year, a number of our Year 9 students have begun participating in a series of transition days as they prepare to move into Year 10.

These sessions have been designed to help students become familiar with the expectations of Key Stage 4 while also supporting them to make meaningful and informed option choices. Students have had opportunities to experience different subjects, speak with staff and explore the vocational and academic pathways available to them.

Making decisions about future study can feel like a significant milestone, and we have been impressed by the maturity, thoughtfulness and enthusiasm that students have shown throughout the process. We look forward to supporting them as they begin this exciting next chapter of their educational journey.

Making the Most of the Sunshine



The recent spell of hot weather certainly tested us all, but our students demonstrated fantastic resilience throughout the warmer days.

Always keen to combine fun with practical learning, Mr Brown organised an activity that allowed our Primary pupils to make the most of the sunshine while staying cool. Armed with buckets, sponges and plenty of refreshing water, students took on the important task of helping to clean the school minibuses.

What began as a practical job quickly became one of the highlights of the week, with students working together brilliantly, showing teamwork, responsibility and lots of enthusiasm.

However, it wasn't long before some of our entrepreneurial Key Stage 2 pupils spotted a business opportunity! Before we knew it, they had begun offering a vehicle washing service for staff – for a small fee, of course!

The initiative sparked some brilliant conversations about enterprise, customer service and money management, and we may well have some future business leaders among us. It was wonderful to see students taking ownership, demonstrating creativity and developing important life skills while having fun in the sunshine.