



Happy New Year! It has been lovely to welcome students back this week, and we hope that you were able to enjoy some time together with families and friends over the school holiday. As always, it has been a busy start to the term and students have settled quickly back into routines and learning. We hosted a very successful Year 11 Parents' and Carers' Evening on Wednesday with many very productive conversations to support student progress at this crucial time in their learning.

A reminder, please, to ensure that you have used your supermarket vouchers for the holiday period if your child/children are eligible for Free School Meals; please do contact school if there are any problems in accessing these.

Upcoming Dates

w/c 29/01 – Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams

Wednesday 31st January – Year 9 and 10 Intermediate Maths Challenge

Wednesday 31st January – Year 7 Parents Evening

w/c 05/02 – Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Welcome Back (Resolutions)

w/c 15/01 - World Religion Day

w/c 22/01 – Holocaust Memorial Day

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

Exam Certificates

Exam certificates for 2023 are now available for collection. Please contact us prior to coming in so we can have these ready for you. Certificates will be kept for 12 months. Any certificates not collected after this time will be confidentially destroyed. Should you require certificates after this time you will need to contact the relevant awarding bodies who will impose a charge for replacements.

WELCOMING WARM SPACE

**Wednesday 10 am until 6pm
Thursday and Friday 11 am until 6pm
(until 31st March 2024)**

Come and join us at the Sandwell Young Carers Centre for a safe and accessible space open to all of our families to come along and socialise, have some company and get involved in some activities while in a warm place!

Our Short Breaks, Support Work and Promotion Services are still running as normal.

0121 525 7667
Sandwell Young Carers Centre
44 Bratt Street, West Bromwich B70 8SB


Tackling loneliness together



Three step support

TRAINING AND GROUPS

TELEPHONE CONSULTATION

TARGETED SUPPORT (AUTISM DIAGNOSIS REQUIRED)

Level 1



- Improve Knowledge & Understanding
- Access Resources & Information
- Access to Autism Specialist Advisors
- Meet other Parents & carers
- Access to Guest speakers

Level 2



- One to one Appointment with an Autism Specialist Advisor
- Personalised Action Plan

Level 3



- One initial appointment with an Autism Specialist Advisor
- Four Face-Face Appointments with an Autism Specialist Advisor
- Four Personalised Action Plans
- Intensive Support

The RIGHT pathway to support

Step 1



REFERRAL

Referrals can be made by parents/ carers or by supporting professionals before, during and after diagnosis.

If you would like to make a referral, please email our Family Service Team:
**sandwellfamily@autis
mwestmidlands.org.uk**

Step 2



INITIAL CONTACT

Once we have received the completed referral, we will contact parent/ carer to check the information and obtain permissions as part of our GDPR. This will also give us the opportunity to discuss any barriers they may have accessing our support.

Step 3



GENERAL LEAFLET

Parent/ carer will then receive copy of our general leaflet, pathway to support leaflet and pre and post diagnosis information sheets.

Step 4



HOMEWORK

To receive information about our events, parent/ carer will need to verify their email subscription. They will also be encouraged to join our Facebook support group and view our online information sheets and resources.

Step 5



THREE STEP SUPPORT

Parent/ carer needs to evidence that they are willing and able to engage with Level 1 Support before accessing Level 2 Support.

Sandwell Family Services

It is vital that parents and carers are referred to our service at the very beginning of their journey. This will ensure that parents and carers are accessing the right support at the right time, improving outcomes for the families we support.

Before Autism Assessment

During Autism Assessment

After Autism Assessment

Sandwell Family Services is funded by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. We offer support to parents and carers living in Sandwell before, during and after diagnosis.

This guideline covers recognising and diagnosing autism spectrum disorder in children and young people from birth up to 19 years. It also covers referral. It aims to improve the experience of children, young people and those who care for them.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg128>



Extracurricular Timetable - Spring

	Before school 7:50 - 8:15 8:00 - 8:20	Break 11:00 - 11:20	Lunch 12:25 - 12:55	After school 15:00 - 16:00 15:00 - 17:15
MON		LRC	Indoor football - MUD, Sports Hall	GCSE Languages speaking - MLO (S9)
			GCSE PE Paper 1 Revision (week A only) - F2	Netball - HWE, Indoor changing rooms
			Books and games - LRC	Girls football - CFI, Pavillion
			Art: Extra mile (KS4/5) - ECA, S13b	LRC
			KS3 Coding - PGA/SBU, S6/S8	KS3 drama club - MTU, G9
			Choir - CBU/KMA, F15/16	Elite dance (invite only) - CGE, Dance Studio
TUES	Table tennis - HWE, Theatre	LRC	Badminton - PTH/CFI, Sports Hall	Photography: Extra mile (Y11) - SGE, S13
			Books and games - LRC	Design and Technology: Extra mile (Y11 invite only) - DHO, G16
			Art: Extra mile (KS4/5) - ECA, S13b	Further Maths club - MBN, L1
			Art council (invite only) - SGE	The Cozy Club - BW, Miss Wilkes' room
			Y7/8 dance - CGE, Dance Studio	Board games - DV, Hive area
				Y11 Maths intervention - AQU, L6
WEDS	Mid-week morning positivity boost - SGE, S13b	LRC	Basketball - LPA, Sports Hall	LRC
			Books and games - LRC	Cadets - TGE/KWA, green containers
			Art: Extra mile (KS4/5) - ECA, S13b	
			A Christmas Carol revision (Y11) - JED, U5	
			Language paper 1 Q5 (Y11) - RLA, U8	
			BTEC Music practice/catch up - CBU, F15/16	
THURS	Indoor football - MUD, Sports Hall	LRC	Pickleball - MUD/HWE, Sports Hall	Basketball - LPA, Indoor changing rooms
			Books and games - LRC	Football - DJO, MUD - Pavillion
			Art: Extra mile (KS4/5) - ECA, S13b	LRC
			Y11 History revision - NWH/ADU/KHI, G5/G8/F5	Cadets - TGE/KWA, green containers
			Band - CBU, F15/16	The Cozy Club - BW, Miss Wilkes' room
			KS4 dance - CGE, Dance Studio	Board games - DV, Hive area
FRI		LRC	Dodgeball - PTH/HWE, Theatre	Girls basketball - CFI, Indoor changing rooms
			Books and games - LRC	Gymnastics - PTH, Indoor changing rooms
			Art: Extra mile (KS4/5) - ECA, S13b	LRC
			KS4 Computing/Business revision - PGA/SBU, S6/S8	Sociology exam question workshop (KS4) - CMI, G12
			Choir - CBU/KMA, F15/16	KS5 IT/Business revision - PGA, S6
			Y11 basketball - AQU, Sports Hall	Further Maths club - MBN, L1
				FIFA club, MUD, F4



West Midlands Railway are offering a discounted **Student Season Ticket** that can be used for travel until 29th March 2024. This special discounted ticket offers students up to 50% savings on travel between two chosen rail stations (evenings, weekends and school holidays included).

For further information visit [Student Season Ticket webpage](#).

SEN

It has been lovely to see the return of our Gospel Oak SEN staff and students on Tuesday 9th January. Lots of smiles and laughter whilst sharing stories from the festive period. However, with any extended period away from school there have been some expressions of anxiety and tears (and that's just the staff!). Thankfully, this term sees the return of our friends from HugglePets to assist and support our most vulnerable students back into the school day.

Our SEN Hive quiet space is also back up and running and it's been lovely seeing students play games, sharing jokes (those Christmas crackers jokes have a lot to answer for!) and supporting their peers in this safe and inclusive environment.

This term also sees the return of Cosy Club and we look forwards with intrigue and anticipation as to what the students will be planning in their after-school activities for the remainder of this term. If you have any ideas or suggestions of activities that you think our students would be interested in, please let us know. All suggestions welcome!

Wishing you and your extended families a very happy 2024.