



02 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carers

## HEAD OF SCHOOL UPDATE

As we move towards the end of the first term in our new school building, I would like to update parents on the development of our school vision. As a new school we are constantly reviewing our offer and plans for the future. We are receiving support from a range of educational settings and advisors including Ofsted and the DfE. As a co-located school which delivers some lessons in conjunction with a mainstream setting, we are very rare and believe we have a lot to offer. It is important to us however to continually review what we are doing to ensure that it is the best for our students. With this in mind, I would like to update you on our curriculum, careers plans, student engagement strategies and other areas of school life.

### Curriculum Update

As existing students are aware, this year we have adapted our approach to maximise the impact of specialist teaching and classes are now following a 5 period timetable with subject based teachers delivering largely their specialist subjects. The students have adapted really well and enjoy the change of tempo and room with their different teachers. Students particularly enjoy their practical lessons and have been learning basic woodcraft techniques as well as cooking skills in technology. Students love their creative lessons at Cleeve Park and we are learning what talented dancers, actors and musicians they are!

Despite the secondary style timetable, it is important to reassure parents that all teachers are aware that it is equally important to support students to develop skills that are important for their lives and futures. This is always at the forefront of our minds when planning. Geography lessons for example focus not only on geology but also on orientation skills and understanding the local area. Dance lessons are designed to support students to develop coordination, strength and confidence. RE lessons have a heavy emphasis on exploring relevant life style issues and the development of self-expression through debate. Science lessons cover the content of the national curriculum but also have a heavy emphasis on teaching about healthy lifestyles. Please see our subject overview statements which are being updated on the website along with other new material.

<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/curriculum-2/>

### Communication Skills

At Cleeve Meadow we have a heavy emphasis on developing communication skills. We are supported weekly by a speech and language therapist who assists the school through observation, training and individualised plans for students. We use 'Communicate in Print' which is a visual resource programme designed by speech and language specialist and our lessons have a high visual content. In addition to this the school works really hard to develop student voice, debate skills, negotiation and self-expression through the following:

[www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org](http://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org)

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Tyler-Maher BA (HON) NPSQH  
Head of School: Ms J Morris  
Company Registration Number: 6455757

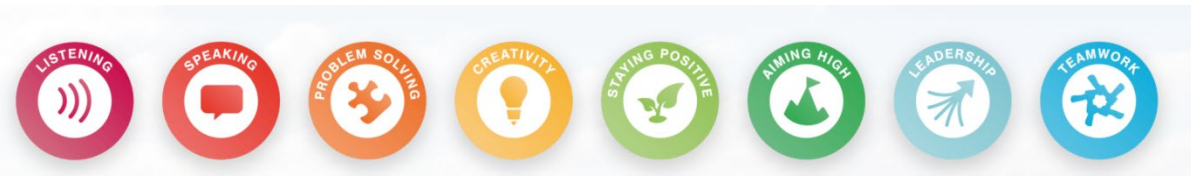


- Debate questions in RE every two weeks (Staff training on 18<sup>th</sup> November in Philosophy for Children P4C)
- Debate club
- Skills builder (presentation skills, speaking and listening)
- Each student holding a responsibility role in the school
- Meetings every two weeks to discuss areas of student responsibility with students
- A high level of student discussion of in class topics

## Life Skills

Life skill development is essential for our students to be able to move towards independent adulthood. Life skill development occurs through a range of opportunities in the school week as follows:

- Planned life skill lessons are delivered to all year groups every two weeks.
- In subject opportunities such as cookery lessons, practical skills through technology lessons, learning about healthy lifestyle choices through PHSE, RE and careers lessons which focus on individual skill and potential.
- Tutor time where some time is allocated for life skills and fine motor skills
- Weekly outdoor learning lessons, the focus of which currently is about understanding our local natural environment through our eco award and woodland trust project. Due to current COVID issues we are currently unable to visit shops, libraries and services in the local area but will re-instate as soon as we are able, along with swimming lessons and travel training.
- Each half term we are running two off timetable days. One of which will be a day that focuses on our skills builder programme and life skill development. These days will be active, highly interactive and fun.



Students are collecting evidence on their life skill and skills builder development and will be compiling their own personal independence folder to carry through their time at school. We are working towards the Skills Builder Silver Award.

<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/curriculum-2/life-skills-2/>

## Vocabulary Building

We recognise that the size of a child's vocabulary is the best predictor of success not only in exams but also for wellbeing, the building of concepts and success in adult life. We are in the process of developing a vocabulary policy, the ground work of which is exploring which strategies have the most impact on vocabulary building success. We recognise that closing the word gap has to be a whole school approach. We identify 10 words as a focus every two weeks. These words are carefully curated to have a range of complexity and link to the English Mastery programme, words required for the Entry Level qualification and tier two words which are useful across the curriculum. Helping the students to learn these words is a whole school effort and alongside meaningful introduction or new words, games and puzzles are used in form time, reading sessions, and in everyday conversation. All staff are aware that for new words to be learnt there needs to be frequent practice and review.

## Wellbeing and Therapies

This year we have started working towards the mentally healthy schools award, which is a joint project working alongside Leeds Beckett University. We feel we are in a strong position to achieve this award because we have a weekly focus on 'the zones of regulation' which provides students with the vocabulary

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they need to be able to identify their emotions and use strategies to self-regulate. We also have weekly yoga lessons which teach brain gym exercises, yoga for relaxation and mindfulness. Our students always emerge relaxed from these sessions. We have onsite staff trained in a range of mental health and support programmes such as 'Place2 Be' and 'Healing Together'.

Our occupational therapy team have supported us to develop our sensory circuit room and we have a timetable for students to complete individualised circuits on a daily basis. This supports them with sensory issues and self-regulation.

We have a student buddy system where students are linked to others in different year groups. Currently all communication is in written form. Post Covid we will set up activities and meetings.

All students have a personalised Learning Plan alongside their EHCP and this helps them to formulate their own Supergoal. Leadership will consider individual student goals in their whole school planning

<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/curriculum-2/therapy/>  
<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/information-for-students-2/wellbeing/>

### **Student Engagement**

We are really proud that all of our students play an important role in the running of the school day. Students are eager to take on a range of roles and responsibilities as follows:

- Student newsletter (under development)
- Eco representative
- School council
- Class leader
- Anti-bullying representative
- Wellbeing representative
- Link representative (regarding transition between the two schools)
- Learning representative (to talk to visitors regarding classroom learning)
- Lunch and bus monitors

This half term we are putting in place meetings every fortnight for each of the school roles so that students will have a chance to discuss the roles and any issues with a named member of staff.

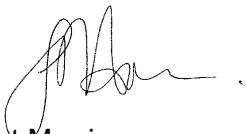
<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/information-for-students-2/student-roles/>

### **Careers**

This year we have signed up to work with Talentino who are a careers consultancy advisory service set up specifically to work with schools with students with SEND in order to improve life chances and streamline career paths and access to further education. We have had our first interactive careers event led by the Royal Navy and students have already requested input from a range of other professions.

<https://www.cleevemeadow-tkat.org/careers/>

Yours sincerely



Juliet Morris  
**HEAD OF SCHOOL**

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