



A Message From Our Executive Head

**Autumn Term
2018-2019**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the autumn term, it is time once again for us to celebrate all the positive things have been happening across the Federation. You will see from this edition that children, young people and staff in both schools have been very busy this term, both in a wide range of activities at school and also outside in community visits and activities.

I'm sure that many of you will have already seen the results of the site improvements that have taken place across both schools. With the support of Westminster City Council, we have improved the boundary security and access systems for both schools; created an extra classroom for each school to accommodate additional pupils; and continued to develop and resource other spaces within the schools to meet the learning and physical needs of our pupils. As well as this, we are continuing to make improvements to the outdoor spaces at both schools to provide varied and meaningful play opportunities for our pupils.

With that in mind, I want to draw your attention to the registered charity that has been established to support the work of our two schools - the Federation of Westminster Special Schools Charity Trust. The trustees have now started two fundraising projects:

To develop a sensory integration space with equipment for children and young people at College Park School

To develop outdoor specialist play areas with equipment at Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee School.

Please do visit the charity's page on our website for further details on the work of the charity and on how you can help to support this work.

I do hope that you enjoy reading about all the activities that have taken place across the Federation schools during this term, as well as the excellent work of our Training & Outreach team. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of our dedicated staff that have continued to work extremely hard to support and encourage the children and young people in their learning and development. I am sure that you will want to join me thanking them for all their continued hard work, enthusiasm and dedication this term. Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and collaboration, which plays a crucial part in our desire to provide the best education and experience possible for our pupils. I wish you all the very best for the festive season and a very peaceful New Year.

With very best wishes,

Andy Balmer
Executive Headteacher

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Check out the Westminster Special Schools website for the latest news on your School.
www.qe2cp.westminster.sch.uk



**Federation of
Westminster
Special Schools**
Training & Outreach

Message From Our Head of School



This has been an exciting and busy term. College Park increased our numbers by 5 as agreed by the local authority and now have a roll of 105.

This also meant that we had the highest number of new starters at College Park, with over 20 new pupils starting in September. This has had its challenges to ensure we have everything in place by having an extra lunch slot, more midday meal supervisors and a new class.

This has also been rewarding for staff to see new pupils settle into our school, the school routines and making friends.

Staff have started taking groups out into the community. Post 16 go to Hyde Park weekly, KS3 have been involved in the Tri-borough music hub, Indigo have been swimming and many classes go to Sainsburys to buy food technology ingredients. As we move into the warmer months and pupils are more settled classes will be able to go out more.

We have also seen an increase in parent participation at our coffee morning's and I hope that parents continue to come and meet other families and get involved in school life.

As part of the local authority capital grants we have been able to increase the security around the school, making it safer for our children. We are still in the planning process to improve our early years playground and hoping to get that installed shortly.

The senior leadership is currently reviewing the curriculum and what we need to do to ensure our curriculum is fit for purpose and meets the needs of the pupils. We would like to have more of a focus on independence and life skills and pupils learning the skills that will support them with their future.

We have also introduced SCERTS . The SCERTS® Model is a research-based educational approach and multidisciplinary framework that directly addresses the core challenges faced by children and persons with ASD and related disabilities, and their families. SCERTS® focuses on building competence in Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support. We have had training in school and support from the speech and language team and educational psychologist. Staff are focusing on emotional regulation and looking at the support we put in place to enable our pupils to regulate their emotions and be actively engaged in learning. This is a slow process where we implement small changes to support our children and we hope that all pupils will be actively engaged in learning at the level that is suitable for them.

Thank you for all the support this year and the positive feedback we receive in meetings and reviews. It is important for staff and parents to work together with a common goal to support our pupils and we appreciate all the support we have been given.

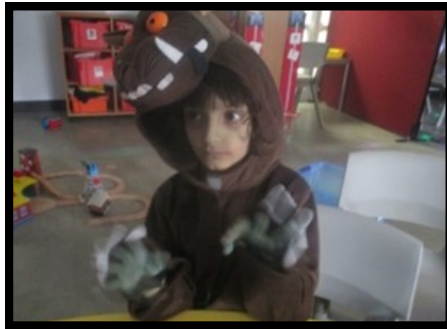
I wish you all a happy restful holiday and Christmas break and look forward to starting the New Year on the 8th January

Last day of term is Friday 21st December and the students return on Tuesday 8th January



Faith Week

During Faith week, Red class visited A Hindu temple. Red class enjoyed looking at the decorations and the different statues of the different Gods that were placed around the temple. Red class sat down with a member of staff that works inside the temple, who was talking about all the different Gods.



Gruffalo Story

During Literacy, we have been learning about the story of the Gruffalo and The Gruffalo child. Red Class have been learning all about the characters by using character teddy's to help tell the story. We have used a torch to make the shadow of the big bad mouse whilst telling the story.

Food and Farming Topic.

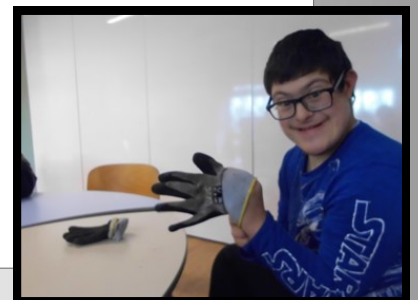
During our class topic of food and farming. The children have been smelling, tasting and touching a wide variety of wet and dry foods such as Jelly, Fruits and yoghurts. They have been exploring the types of foods we get from animals, such as dairy products comes from a cow. The children really enjoyed tasting cheese, yoghurts and cream.



This year Post 16 pupils have embarked on a long-term project with the Royal Parks Foundation. At 'The Lookout' Centre, located in Hyde Park, pupils have been completing gardening tasks that help the Centre run.

Post 16 pupils absolutely love attending these weekly sessions, and have shown the employees at the Centre, as well as the teaching staff, their very 'grown up' behavior. They are travelling via public bus there and back, following instructions, and using their communication skills appropriately.

Many of the targets set for the pupils at the beginning of the sessions have already been met, and we are now setting targets that encourage pupils to be even more independent in this setting.



Post 16



Learning in Silver House



We had so many exciting learning opportunities in Silver house this term!

In Literacy we had been exploring two stories : "We are going on a bear hunt " and "Brown bear, brown bear, what do you see" using our senses to learn about animals and colours, sequencing as well as practicing in requesting exchanging a symbol in order to improve our communication skills.

In Maths we had been practicing in counting objects, becoming familiar with the concept of number as well as learning about 2D shapes and measuring weight using a scale.

In Science we had been exploring forces and magnets through participating in exciting experiments while learning how to wait for our turn. Finally, in Topic we have learnt about food and farming through engaging with different craft and cooking activities.



This term Green House has been reading the story 'Handa's Surprise'. A story about a young girl going to surprise her friend with a fruit basket; however the cheeky jungle animals want that fruit. We have been using

the story to promote our own sharing, to develop our communication skills through our different communication devices and to explore loads and loads of fruit. We are also performing 'Handa's Surprise' for our Christmas show. In maths we have been developing our knowledge of numbers and measurement. We have been applying concept vocabulary to everyday items such as big, small, tiny, long, and short and many more as well as applying the suffixest. This term is the first term Green House has begun flat skills, a session designed to develop the life skills for home life. We practice a number of different skills such as vacuuming and washing-up. Lastly in science we have been exploring the solar system and earth. We have used this to apply describing words to objects.

Green House



A busy term in KS3



What a busy term we've had!

We took some time to get to know each other and understand that we are growing up. It has been lovely seeing our students become more independent and self-confident.

In English, we really liked reading "Charlotte's web" and getting to know the characters in the story. We focused on prediction, answering "Why?" questions and description. The students were engaged in crafts activities and role-playing.

In Maths, we consolidated column addition and subtraction and we also explored fractions. Some students focused on learning and mastering more and less, number before and after. We all had fun using weight scales and rulers, measuring the weight and length of objects around the classroom. KS3 students focused on mastering vocabulary such as heavy, light, long, short, heavier, lighter, longer and shorter. In Science, we explored force and magnets, Earth and space. We enjoyed learning facts about the planets of our Solar System.

Our topic for the autumn term was "Food and farming". We explored the meaning of harvest and learnt more about farm animals. The students were surprised to find out that some of the food we buy in supermarkets comes from a farm and what are the steps in making it.

Every week we went to Westminster Boating Base where we learnt how to paddle a kayak. We improved our listening and teamwork skills while having fun.

We had a great time singing Christmas carols at the Westminster Christmas Festival and we prepared very hard for our part in the Christmas show.

We learnt more about ourselves and strategies we could use when dealing with our feelings. We will continue to work on that in the New Year.





Indigo House



This has been an exciting term for Indigo Class. We have been very busy and have learned a lot. Our topic was Farming and Food and we have investigated buildings, machines, animals and foods that are found on a British farm. Indigo Class have made fruits and vegetables from paper and paint and lots of fun doing it. We read Charlotte's Web as our English book and performed in for the Christmas play. In Maths, we worked on our number skills and being able to recognise money.



Indigo participated in and received an ARTS Award Discover certificate in September. They painted and played music and reflected on their experiences after completing their pieces.

Indigo went swimming at the Porchester pool this term to improve our confidence in the water and swimming skills. Everyone in Indigo loved swimming and enjoyed our time in the water, especially the teachers.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Blue House

Blue class have had an exciting term settling into their new class on the first floor. They have enjoyed exploring their new class and surroundings. We had a new student join half way through the term and we have all been good friends to him.

In topic we learned about farm animals and enjoyed making farm animals out of modelling clay. We also did lots of arts and crafts activities and made farm animals using paper plates, glitter and other craft items.

In science we learned about forces and magnets. Doing all the experiments was extremely fun and our favourite experiment was making bubbles with a balloon pump!

For faith week, we learned about Christianity and visited the local church. Some of the boys in class loved ringing the church bell and others loved playing the piano and listening to music.

We have been working really hard to use our communication books and devices to request for things like grown-ups and our teachers are really proud of us!

Blue class have done a lot of work on our fine motor skills, reading, writing and counting as well, and we can't wait to do more exciting things in the New Year.

Purple House



Purple House has had an amazing first term together! For a lot of our pupils this has been their first term at College Park School so we are all very proud of how settled they have become and how much they are enjoying school!

Purple House have been working very hard, developing their new routines within school and focusing on their independent skills throughout the day. Children have spent the term developing friendships with peers and relationships with their teachers. It is wonderful to see how far they have come in such a short space of time!

In English, Purple House has been using a sensory story to read Mrs. Honey's Hat, written by Pam Adams. Through this story, Purple House have developed knowledge of days of the week as Mrs Honey travels to different countries and loses things from her hat. Children love this story and are very familiar with the sequence.

One of Purple House's most favorite lessons is Food Tech. Children love this routine of making Pizza each week. Through this lesson, they work on requesting and having the choice of what they have on their pizza. We have focused on verbs such as 'give' and 'sprinkle'.



In maths, children have focused on shape and number. Children have been learning to identify big and small, sort and identify simple 2D shapes and order images in relation to size. Children consistently work on number knowledge during work-station activities.

Purple House love sensory time, and have fun getting MESSY! This is a good time for children to regulate and have the opportunity to feel different textures.

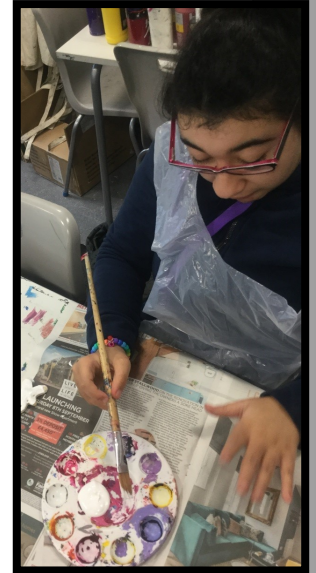
This has been a busy term for Purple House and the class teams are so delighted to see the small steps of progress happening throughout the day. We are all so



KS4



In key Stage 4, as well as lots of hands-on activities to help us learn, we have been practicing and preparing to take our functional skills exams which begin next term.



We have also been visiting Westminster Kingsway College to participate in taster sessions linked to a range of possible careers in preparation for adulthood.

We each chose a subject to focus on for our first term. The subjects offered were Construction, Enterprise and catering. We have been visiting every Thursday and spending the day at College getting to know the environment as well as developing our interests.

It has been an ideal opportunity for us to practice our social and speaking and listening skills and to help us develop the confidence to meet new people and try out practical and sometimes challenging activities.

We have been travelling to college on public transport and this has enabled us to practice our road safety skills and general social skills whilst in a public domain.

We are looking forward to being able to choose a new subject to focus on for next term and to continue building our confidence, as we become young adults and independent learners.

Yellow House

Yellow class started the term in full swing! We have been working really hard on our independence and life skills.

For some of us Flat Skills is still a new lesson and we are getting used to the logistics but for others we have been developing on our skills. We have been learning to Hoover, make the bed and set the table as well as lots of other skills.

Some of us have been using a range of sensory items to help us write our names whilst others have been practicing our addresses.

We have been sequencing our daily morning and night routines. Some of us can read the digital time in hours whilst others can read the digital time in hours and half past.

We have also been making a range of arts and crafts for R.E. We have played a Jewish game called Driedel, we have made binoculars to find the moon (Islam) and we have made Kara's (Sikh). We also visited a Sikh temple and learnt about different people in our community.



Pink House



Autumn Term has been lots of fun in Pink class. The children have enjoyed Science investigations using magnets to move objects through sand and water and even to create paintings with a paper clip.



They have used role play and song to learn the names, positions and some features of the planets in order to gain some understanding of the Solar system; and made their own astronaut helmets.

Other hands on activities have helped learning in Maths, including making 2D shapes using pipe cleaners; and sorting 2D shapes that they searched for in trays of sand. Pink class were challenged to categorise the shapes, not just by name but by their properties – and surprised themselves with some of the details they could remember.

Literacy lessons have focused on using verbs – acting them out as well as using them in sentence construction activities and independent writing. The children further tested their recall skills by sequencing pictures and props to tell our sensory story Fantastic Mr Fox as well taking it in turns to read it out loud to the class.



For Enrichment this term, Pink class has been lucky enough to participate in Dance and shared some of their 'moves' with the rest of the school during their class assembly.

During Faith Week, the children had the opportunity to visit a Hindu temple where they saw statues of Rama and Sita who they'd learned about during Diwali and then



Orange House

This has been a great term for Orange class and we are already looking forward to next term.

This term in Orange house we have been looking at colours, numbers and farming. The class team has been working on encouraging communication within the classroom across the school day. We have seen a great improvement in the children and their emotional regulation.

We have had a great time exploring our senses through sensory play. The children have been exploring through water play and other messy play activities. They have also used arts and crafts to explore and have worked on using their fine motor skills to do this.

The children have thoroughly been enjoying their Speech and language sessions this term. The team have been working alongside the speech and language therapist to continue this good work across the school week. The children have been working on individual targets with the therapist as well. This has helped their overall understanding and increased their vocabulary. Orange class have really enjoyed exploring different musical sounds and instruments this term. We as a staff team have noticed how much they like music and have tried to use this more throughout the school day.

From the orange class team we hope you have a good Christmas and a happy new year!





As 2018 comes to an end and we wrap up our first term of the school year, the governors would like to firstly wish all parents/carers and students a very fun and festive winter break, and secondly, provide an update into what the Governing Board has been working on this term.

The Federation Governing Board is responsible for holding the Executive Headteacher to account for the educational performance of both schools and their pupils. It sets a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction and ensures money is well spent.

Three committees have been set up to look at matters in greater depth and detail. These committees report back to the full Governing Board each term. They cover “Resources”, “Standards and Achievement” and “Parents, Pupils and Partnerships”. In what will be a series of updates on the work of committees, I wanted to use this opportunity to introduce myself and update you on the “Standards and Achievement” committee.

As vice-chair of the committee, I have been working with the chair, committee members, Executive Headteacher and Heads of schools to ensure that the Federation is the best it can be at providing an enriching and inclusive education for all pupils. I chaired our last meeting in October which looked at termly reports from QEII and College Park schools. These, amongst other things, detailed the work being undertaken over the last term, pupil progress and the systems in place to ensure high quality teaching. The members of the committee looked at the reports in detail, asked questions of school staff. Aspects were challenged where appropriate to ensure committee members are clear about the information provided and how it fits in with the aims of the Federation Development Plan. Some terms we have presentations on particular issues of relevance. This term we looked at information about how specific government grants are used in the schools. We also heard about playground development plans at College Park – currently awaiting planning permission and updates from recent governor visits.

College Park has welcomed a number of new students this term and a huge amount of work has gone into settling these new students into school.

QEII has successfully implemented new student assessment tools that allow staff to better monitor progress in very small steps. These will be embedded into the curriculum over the year.

In the new year, we will continue to support all staff at the Federation to work towards ongoing goals of developing the curriculum, evaluating our impact and striving for improvement where possible and we hope you will continue to support us in this mission. We are always looking for new ways to improve and are open to suggestion from parents so please get in touch if you have any question.

Happy Holidays,

Shane McLaughlin, Vice Chair of Governing Board and Standards and Achievement Committee.

Drama at College Park



It has been an excellent first term back for students partaking in drama sessions. As lots of new faces settle in, the older students have been continuing their work in this area and developing all aspects of their communication, confidence and social skills.

Drama is a key subject to help students improve their creative skills and the ability to socialise and understand the world around them. There has been some excellent work taking place in all aspects of the school and we get the opportunity to dramatise some of the students work on Wed 19th December.

There will be shorts scenes including *Handa's Surprise*, *Charlotte's Web*, *How to get a job* and many more and of course there will be some Christmas Carols to put us in the festive mood. When students return in January we will begin the process of preparing them for The Lyric Theatre festival where once again we have the chance to showcase the young peoples considerable talents.

Have a good break.

Music at College Park

What a big year it has already been for music at College Park.

KS3 have continued to work with the Triborough music hub on the 2 year Convo project with a final performance happening at the Royal Albert Hall in March 2019. They have also taken part in the Triborough Music Hub Christmas Festival at Regent Hall.

A mixture of students from across the school had the privilege of seeing the West End musical Aladdin and the Lyric Theatre's pantomime Dick Whittington.

Post 16 had an enriching experience at the English National Opera seeing the modern take on the classic War Requiem. They also took part in the Carol Celebrations at the closing of the historic Whiteley's with a special visit from Father Christmas.

KS4 had the amazing opportunity of visiting a professional recording studio at the Lyric Theatre where they were invited to record tracks from last year's production of a "Hero's Quest".

To finish off the year in celebration each class has taken part in the annual College Park Christmas Show. Pupils have showcased scenes from novels they have been studying in class, with a Christmas spin.

The creative Arts department are very much looking forward to 2019 with the upcoming Westminster Special Schools Summer Arts Festival!

Have a Merry Christmas everyone, May it be filled with music!

Westminster Training & Outreach Team



FWSS Training and Outreach has embarked on the following initiatives this term:

Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Conference

Launching SLCN whole school programme at Bi-borough SENCO Forum

Developing effective parental engagement program for C&YP with Hearing Loss

Developing Partnership Agreement between the service and educational settings Chairing CHSWG
by QToD Kathryn Gilgallon

Developing flexible model of delivering Visual Impairment provision with the support from the
QTVI from Edward Wilson School

Drop-in sessions for WPPG (for OT and HI)

Joint working with RBKC Autism advisory teachers

Enhancing universal OT offer (training offered on 4th Dec)

Developing joint working protocols with sensory services (Barnet, Haringey, Islington, Brent and
Camden)

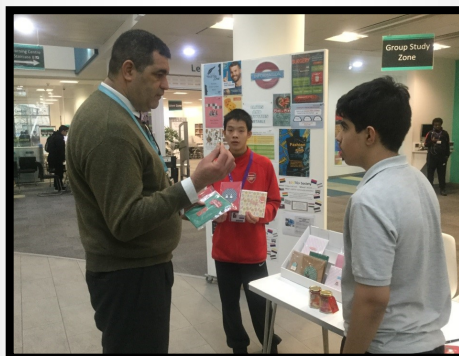
Autism and Girls working group.

Coffee Morning at College Park 2018-2019

14/12/2018
1.30-3.00
18/01/2019
10.30-12.30
05/02/2019
10.30-12.30
08/03/2019
2.00-3.00
29/03/2019
10.30-12.30
17/05/2019
10.30-12.30
14/06/2019
1.30-3.00
18/07/2019
1.30-3.00



College Park Gallery



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