



A Message From Our Executive Head

Summer Term

2019-2020

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 that 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.

Based on a review of our curriculum last year we are clear that your children need to develop skills in situations that are real and meaningful and that encourage them to actively engage in their learning. The skills that we know will best equip your children with the necessary skills for life beyond the school are communication, cognition, independence, physical development and self-care. Our curriculum has three learning strands to meet the differing needs of your children and strives to be responsive to each child and to build on individual strengths and interests within each of these areas of learning.

We have detailed schemes created by a company called EQUALS who employ experts in special needs to develop their schemes.

In order to put the new curriculum in place we are focusing on one area each term, starting with Play and Leisure as the context at QEII and Independence at College Park. These schemes give guidance to staff on teaching all of the above skills in many ways.

In the New Year we will be considering how best to keep you informed about the new curriculum and what your children are learning so that you can help them to learn and practise their skills at home.

We also wanted to keep you informed on the current position regarding the appointment of a new Executive Headteacher for the Federation. The shared arrangements between Andy and Jacqui which were implemented for the autumn term are working well and these will continue until Easter 2020. Governors are using the services of a specialist search agency to assist in identifying and speaking with potential candidates. The agency is confident that this will enable Governors to interview and appoint a new Executive Headteacher in due course. We will, of course, continue to keep everyone updated.

We 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 and our Governors. We would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of our dedicated staff who have continued to work extremely hard to support and encourage the children and young people in their learning and development. We are sure that you will want to join us thanking them for all their hard work, enthusiasm and dedication this term.

Finally, we 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. We wish you all the very best for the festive season and for a peaceful New Year.

With very best wishes,

Andy Balmer
Executive Headteacher

Jacqui Tovey
Associate Executive Headteacher

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 a busy and exciting year so far for College Park. We had 8 new starters into College Park who are settling in well. We have also started on our new curriculum model, ensuring that we are meeting the individual need and the curriculum is designed with each child in mind. This will take some time to change and implement what we are developed and then embed the practice. Most classes go out on a community walk on a weekly basis and have been working on independence skills. SCERTS (r) is fully embedded into the school and staff lead an amazing twilight on SCERTS spotlights which looked at specific children and the interventions involved to ensure active engagement.

We are saying goodbye to two teachers this Christmas who are going off to do different things. Good luck to Florentina and Keshia with your future plans and thank you for all hard work and dedication over the years. We would like to introduce Flora to Pink Class and Rachel to White Class as our new teachers.

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 throughout the year.

I wish you all a happy restful holiday and Christmas break and look forward to starting the new year on the 7th January.

We are excited to announce that both College Park and QEII Jubilee School are lead schools in the West London Inclusive Arts Festival and have secured funding for the next three years from the John Lyon's Charity. The Festival has now grown to include six special schools including St Ann's School, Springhallow School, Queensmill School and Cambridge School.

Our cultural partners include The Lyric theatre Hammersmith, The Wallace Collection, The Royal Albert Hall, The Institute of Imagination, The Tri-borough Music Hub and Aurora Orchestra. It's a very exciting festival that places inclusion at its core. Excitingly we have an increased budget and a dedicated family strand. I look forward to telling you more over the coming months of the exciting program of events that we will be developing.

Art



Orange House



Orange class had a fantastic term. We went on a sensory journey that took us on a 'bear hunt' and exploration of different tastes and textures.

Through this experience the students of Orange class expanded and developed their interaction and communication skills with the staff members and peers.

They became more inquisitive and open to trying new things from fruit and vegetables to new sensorial materials.

We are very excited to continue this journey and see how our children grow and enjoy their school year.

Green House



This term the students of green class have been practising life skills in the Flat. We have been teaching our children the skills of cleaning up such as vacuuming and washing the dishes, making simple meals such as toast and sandwiches and also how to fold clothes and put them away into the drawers. Over the course of the term, the students have shown improvements in all areas and are becoming more independent overtime. Great work Green Class!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



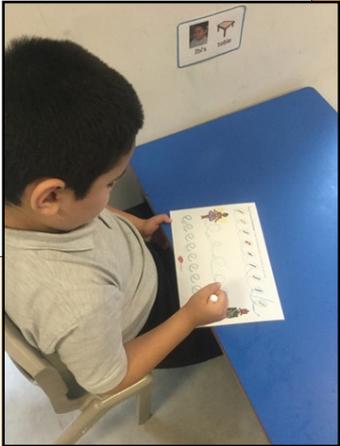
Red House



This term Red House have worked tremendously hard and have preserved through the term. In Literacy, Red House have looked at two books this, 'Giraffes can't Dance' and 'The Nutcracker'. They explored both books with our listen and tell sensory story, craft, colourful semantics, cooking and word of the week. We also visited London Zoo and Santa's Grotto.



Red House have been consistently engaged and enthusiastic during our Literacy lessons. A huge well done to Red House for a wonderful term.



Post 16

Post 16+ students have been busy out in the community this term going regularly to Kensington Gardens and over to QE2 to make use of the gym. They also have weekly visits to Costa Coffee to practice their functional skills; and shopping trips to Sainsbury's to buy ingredients, once they've read through a recipe and created their own shopping list. The students have cooked cheesy muffins, bean tortillas, vegetable frittata and leek and potato soup amongst other things.

They've also enjoyed learning about famous places in London and visited both Tower Bridge and the Tower of London where they saw the Crown Jewels that Kings and Queens have worn over hundreds of years.

Students have explored the story Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by reading the book, watching the film and engaging in a range of activities: writing invitations, making chocolate bars (out of cardboard), following a recipe to make cocoa scented play dough and experimenting with vinegar and baking soda to make fizzy bubble pop.



Silver House



We have done some amazing work in Silver house this term! In Literacy we had been exploring two stories: 'Elmer the patchwork elephant' and 'The Gingerbread man' while learning about colours and animals. Also we had been using action words and practicing in requesting motivating story props to improve our communication skills. In Maths we had been practicing learning about 2D shapes, sequencing and matching numbers.

A very important part of our daily practice was the exercise of interaction and social skills: we learnt how to take turns sharing a toy, how to play alongside our peers, how to request what we need and how to wait for our turn!

We are looking forward for an even more exciting Spring Term!



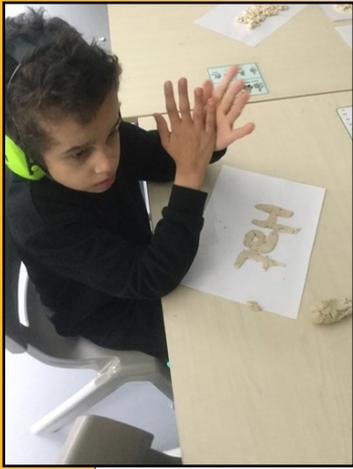
Blue House

This term we have enjoyed going to Paddington Park every Friday. Even in the cold we wrapped up warm and made the most out of the playground equipment. Not only did we focus on our motor skills climbing, jumping and swinging. We also were motivated to use key language terms such as, "help, push, pull, faster and slow." We have also been trying to give instructions/ request from our friends by using our communication aids.

Our sensory story this term has been Pirates Love Underpants. We explored different sensory items associated with sea and pirates. Kinetic sand was by far our favourite as a whole class!

In science we have made Ice pops as well as tasting how ice melts with the warmth of our mouth and tongue.





Pink Class have had a lovely first term. We read the story 'Room on the broom' and we enjoyed exploring the sensory activities like making a potion and learning the sounds animals make. We tried our best practising handwriting and mark making, sometimes using playdough to help develop our fine motor skills. We are also getting better at finishing our independent work during lessons. Going to Forest School each week meant we had the opportunity to explore the world around us in a safe environment, whilst learning how to make a small camp fire and tasting popcorn.



We practised how to make sandwiches and became better at following a visual schedule. Every afternoon we looked forward to brushing our teeth and practising social and play skills during structured play sessions. It has been a long journey, but we have made it so far and we have enjoyed getting to know our new peers and teachers.

Pink
House

Yellow house this term have been very practical in our learning. We have been into our local community meeting uniformed individuals such as the police, London underground workers, shop staff and many more. This has been helping us have a better understanding of the many different jobs available within our community as well as the many different individuals that can help us. As well as this we have also been developing our road safety when in the community and within the class.

Our communication sessions have a mixture of how we interact in specific situations, ordering and sequencing events and lastly making meaningful requests. We practice our writing daily as well as occasionally spelling of words through interactive white board games or flashcards. Some pupils are developing a better understanding of different vocabulary through observation tasks or short stories.

Lastly yellow house have been thoroughly enjoying our gardening sessions where we explore, find and interactive with insects, different plant based material and different gardening tools. We have collected a number leaves and sorted them through identification sheets.

We look forward to a new term in the New Year. Season's greetings and a happy New Year.

Yellow House

Indigo House



This has been an exciting term for Indigo Class. We have been very busy and have learned a lot. We focussed on Space and the Universe for our English topic and read the Books, 'Man on the Moon, a day in the life of Bob', as well as 'Back to Earth with a bump'. We created alien hats, made space rockets and launch pads as well as lots of practise on our writing. For Topic, we explored new and old things, and learned about English history, as part of the Topic, 'Now, then and long ago'. In Maths, we worked on learning about 2D and 3D shapes as well as learning British coins.

Indigo participated and received an ARTS Award Discover certification this term. With the help of the team from Open City, they created a unique home they designed and decorated. They explored Pitzhanger Manor in Ealing and created a wonderful soundscape about their learning experiences.

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

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



Students have worked exceptionally hard and have all now settled into their routines.

Communication, understanding the world around them and increasing confidence have been key areas of focus and we are pleased to see a positive attitude towards all arts based subjects within College Park. There have been trips to the Snowman and to the Royal Albert Hall to take part in sensory stories. We will showcase more drama skills on Thursday 19th December with our end of year performance.



Drama at College Park

Governing Body



As we reach the end of Autumn term 2019, I am writing to 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.

Over the last few Newsletters we have told you about the three committees that the Governing Board have 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". This term I wanted to update you on the "Resources" committee.

As chair of the Resources committee, I have been working with committee members, Executive Headteacher, Heads of schools and the Federation Business Manager to ensure that the Federation is the best it can be at providing an enriching and inclusive education for all pupils. At our last meeting in November we looked at termly report from the Federation Business Manager updating on school budgets and expenditure. The members of the committee looked at the report in detail and asked questions. 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.

Other matters discussed at the last meeting included feedback on the range of building and improvement works carried out over the Summer holidays. We also discussed some initial proposals for Summer 2020 works. We also discussed plans by the two Heads of School for spending specific government grants called Pupil Premium grant and PE grant.

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.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful festive break.

Aslam Merchant, Chair of Resources Committee



Music at College Park

We have had a brilliant time in music this term!

Classes have been focusing on incorporating communication in their lessons and we are also developing a Makaton choir in some secondary classes.

Post 16 and some students from Yellow class were fortunate enough to visit our partners at the English National Opera to see Phillip Glass's contemporary opera Orphee.

Gold class will also be taking Part in the Triborough Music Hub Christmas Festival at Kensington Town Hall on the 17th December.

We are very much looking forward to collaborating with different classes for our CP Christmas Celebration on the last day of term (18th)!





College Park

**Last day of term is Thursday 19th December and
the students return on Tuesday 7th January**

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