

AUTUMN 2023

Learning Support News

Keeping parents & carers up-to-date



NEW YEAR, NEW START!

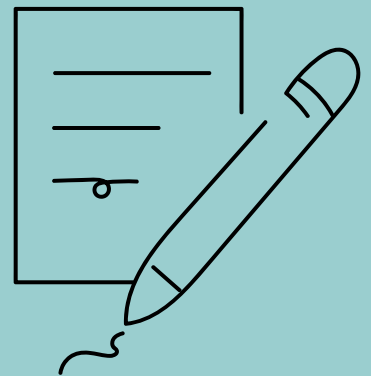
Mrs Hare (SENDCo), Mrs Roberson (Assistant SENDCo) and LSAs.

Welcome to our Learning Support Newsletter. Once a term, we send out a (hopefully!) helpful round-up of all things SEND, answering questions you may have and letting you know what goes on in the Department - and beyond - for all our learners with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

We know that transitioning to a new school can be daunting for anyone, but especially so for those who find some aspects of school difficult. That's why we offered additional transition time, why we've set up a SPECTRA group especially for Year 7 students who are finding the change difficult, and why our ever-popular Monday Club will begin again after half-term.

We are lucky at Meole to have an excellent Pastoral Team, a huge LSA Team, a fabulous Well-Being Team, and lots of teachers who really care about their pupils. If your child is worried about something, encourage them to speak to their form tutor - they will know how best to help them.

We hope you find this newsletter (and those that come in the future) a useful addition to your contact with school, and a helpful resource for supporting your child. If you need to get in touch, our email addresses are: SENCo@meole.co.uk and AssistSENCo@meole.co.uk.



Newsletter Highlights

Dyslexia Support Strategies

Exam Concessions

Learning Support Information

Sensory management

Local Support Information



Meole Brace School



Dyslexia can look & feel different for everyone.

For some people, words jump around the page.

For others, it's hard to be organised.

Some people can't remember instructions.

Others find certain fonts and colours hard to focus on.

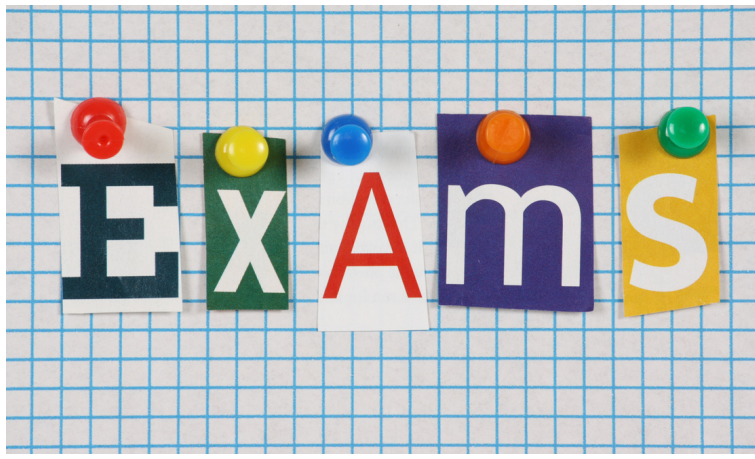
Some students find spelling hard.

Others are easily distracted by sensory stimulation.

So how do we help?

- **With coloured overlays**
- **With handouts printed ready**
- **With careful font and colour choice**
- **With subject-specific staff training**
- **With interventions to reinforce skills like organising, spelling, reading, & writing**
- **With dyslexia-friendly texts for English Literature**
- **With instruction-chunking, using a mini-white board or a list in the margin of a book, or online with Goblin Tools**
- **With calm & focused classroom environments**
- **With designated Library lessons that encourage reading**
- **With regular reminders of strategies to staff**
- **With Pupil Passports**
- **With assistive technology like laptops & reading pens**

WHEN YOU'RE AT HOME, ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO KEEP AN ORGANISED & CALM WORKSPACE FOR HOMEWORK. SET A SCHEDULE AND CHECK THEY HAVE WHAT THEY NEED. HELP THEM MAKE A TICK-LIST TO CHECK OFF STAGES OF THE TASK AS THEY GO. ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE AMBITIOUS - WE DON'T MIND IF THE SPELLING IS WRONG AS LONG AS THE WORDS ARE AMBITIOUS! SET ASIDE A TIME TO READ ANYTHING AT ALL: NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, RECIPES, INSTRUCTIONS - ALL READING IS VALUABLE. LIKE ANY MUSCLE, IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE IT, IT GETS FLABBY!



Concessions - what they are & how they work.

Exam Concessions are designed to remove barriers that some students face when they sit their GCSE exams & to make sure that the right student gets the right concessions. The JCQ issue is a set of criteria for identifying and awarding concessions. The concessions that can be applied for are:

25% extra time

Reader

Scribe

Laptop

Rest Breaks

Prompt

When students on our SEND register move into year 9, we look at the pupil passports & strategies that are included on them to create an overview of the exam concessions that students may need for GCSEs. We then request evidence from teachers to show what concessions may be needed. At the end of year 9 we arrange for students to be assessed for concessions by our JCQ compliant Assess Arrangements Assessor. Once the assessment has been done, any concessions that have been awarded turn into the students' normal way of working for their assessments & exams. These are valid for the whole of KS4. Evidence of these are given to take forward to post 16 provision, where they will have to reapply for concessions.

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact
assistsenco@meole.co.uk

WHO'S WHO IN LEARNING SUPPORT?

MRS HARE IS THE SENDCO. SHE LOOKS AFTER REFERRALS, EHCPS, EDUKEY, DAY-TO-DAY DECISIONS, AND LONG-TERM PLANNING.

MRS ROBERSON IS THE ASSISTANT SENDCO. SHE LOOKS AFTER EXAM CONCESSIONS AND TESTING, AND SENSORY INCLUSION.

MISS PARRY IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF YEARS 10 AND 11, AND ALSO RUNS NUMERACY INTERVENTIONS.

MRS MCKAY IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF TRANSITION AND YEAR 7.

MRS THOMPSON IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF TIMETABLES AND COLLEGE LIAISON.

MRS POWELL IS THE LEAD LSA IN CHARGE OF YEARS 8 AND 9, AND ALSO RUNS TALKABOUT INTERVENTIONS.

MISS JEWSBURY IS IN CHARGE OF HOMEWORK CLUB AND MONDAY CLUB.

MISS HAZELL, MISS DAVIES AND MISS BAKER ARE ALL TRAINED IN SOCIAL STORIES.

MRS CHUMBLEY IS IN CHARGE OF SPELLING INTERVENTIONS.

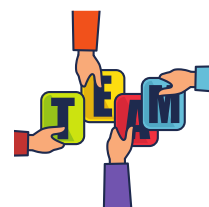
MISS DUNKLEY RUNS A SUPER FRIENDSHIP CLUB.

MR GRAINGER IS OUR SCIENCE EXPERT. HE TEACHES AQA SCIENCE UNIT AWARDS.

MR LEWIN RUNS AN ORGANISATION INTERVENTION.

MISS EMBERTON RUNS A HANDWRITING INTERVENTION.

MISS PRICE, MISS COWLEY, MISS THOMAS & MS FULWELL DO EVERYTHING! THEY SUPPORT IN CLASSROOMS, MENTOR STUDENTS, HELP WITH CLUBS AND INTERVENTIONS, & ARE KEY WORKERS FOR SEVERAL STUDENTS.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL?



ASPIRATIONS
TALKS - SIGN UP
ON **SCHOOLSBUDDY**
FOR A TALK FROM
A REAL PERSON
ABOUT THEIR REAL
JOB.

READING, WRITING,
SPELLING & MATHS
SUPPORT - IF YOU'VE
GOT A PLACE, MAKE
SURE YOU GO! IT'S
HELPFUL FOR YOUR
FUTURE.

AFTER SCHOOL
CLUBS - YOU CAN
FIND THESE ON
SCHOOLSBUDDY.
TURN YOUR HOBBY
INTO SOMETHING
MORE!

HOMEWORK CLUB -
WE'RE HERE IN
TUTOR TIME &
AFTER SCHOOL TO
HELP YOU
SUCCEED!

SPECTRA SUPPORT
- REMEMBER TO GO
TO YOUR GROUP
SESSION TO GET
EXTRA HELP!

EMBRACE
MENTORING - A
NEW PROGRAM TO
SUPPORT YOUR
MENTAL HEALTH &
WELL-BEING

WELLBEING
WORKSHOPS -
LOOK OUT FOR THE
TIMETABLE AND
SIGN UP WITH
YOUR TUTOR!

WE RUN LOTS OF INTERVENTIONS IN LEARNING SUPPORT. WE'LL LET YOU KNOW IF YOUR CHILD HAS A PLACE ON ANY GROUPS, AND ANY HELP TO REMIND THEM TO ATTEND IS ALWAYS Hugely APPRECIATED. WE MONITOR OUR SUPPORT CAREFULLY TO MAKE SURE IT'S EFFECTIVE AND WE'RE WORKING HARD TO MAKE MORE PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM.

SENSORY NEEDS & WAYS TO MANAGE THEM.



SENSORY OVERLOAD IS A VERY REAL THING. SOME PEOPLE FIND IT HARD TO BLOCK OUT THE INFORMATION FROM THEIR SENSES, MAKING IT REALLY HARD FOR THEM TO FOCUS ON THEIR WORK. HERE ARE TWO WAYS TO HELP WITH THIS.

TOO NOISY?

IF YOUR CHILD STRUGGLES WITH CORRIDORS, BUSY SPACES, OR BACKGROUND NOISE (LIKE CHATTER OR ELECTRICAL HUM) THEY CAN WEAR LOOP EARPLUGS TO SCHOOL TO HELP THEM MANAGE.



TOO STILL?

SOME PEOPLE NEED TO MOVE TO FOCUS. WE HAVE FIDGET ITEMS IN SCHOOL FOR THOSE WHO NEED THEM. PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD WITH ANY OTHER FIDGET ITEMS. THESE OFTEN CAUSE MORE DISTRACTION THAN INTENDED. TEACHERS HAVE 'QUIET' FIDGETS TO HAND TO CHILDREN.





Shropshire
Council

Hear from Chat with

A chance for families of children with disabilities or special additional needs to meet services from education, health and social care. Plus Shropshire Parent and Carer Council.

The theme for Autumn is Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support, Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) and annual reviews.

Hosted by Shropshire Early Help

Mon 13 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
The Centre, Oswestry, SY11 1LW

Mon 20 Nov, 9.30am-12.30pm
Sunflower House, Shrewsbury, SY1 4E

Fri 1 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Raven House, Market Drayton, TF9 3AH

Thu 14 Dec, 9.30am-12.30pm
Helena Lane Community Centre,
Ludlow, SY8 2NP



Shropshire, Telford
and Wrekin



Shropshire
Strengthening
Families



If you would like to find out about other services the Parenting Team offers please email

Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

or call us on 01743 250950



PARENTING HELP AND SUPPORT LINE

available

Monday to Friday from 9.00am to 5.00pm

You can contact the Parenting Help and Support Line by calling

01743 250950

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. The Parenting Team is here to support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around child development and parenting?

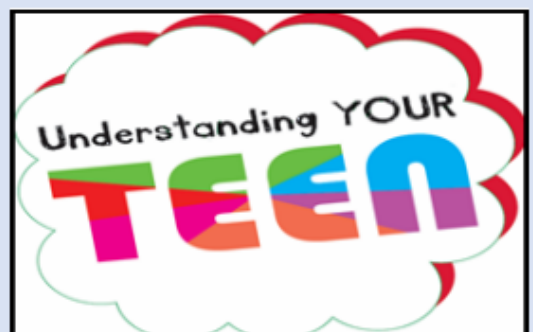
Why not call our Parenting Help and Support Line where one of our trained

Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

(Please note the Parenting Help and Support Line will not operate Bank Holidays and between Christmas & New Year)

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call

First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021





Shropshire IASS

Information Advice & Support Service

Free

Confidential and impartial information, advice and support for children, young people (0 to 25) and their parents and carers about

special educational needs and disabilities

(SEND), including related health and social care issues.



01743 280019

✉ iass@cabshropshire.org.uk

f /IASSShropshire

🖱 www.cabshropshire.org.uk

"I can't thank
my advisor
enough for the
**support, guidance,
understanding,
reassurance and
encouragement**
she has given me."

Social Prescribing client



What can I expect?

Your advisor will contact you to introduce themselves and book your first appointment. Your first appointment will be up to 45 minutes long.

Your advisor will listen and provide help based on what matters to you.

Your advisor can support you for 3-6 months and help you to make positive changes to improve your health and wellbeing.

How can I access Social Prescribing?

Social Prescribing is available to those aged 18 years and older across the whole of Shropshire.

You can refer yourself to Social Prescribing by calling **0345 678 9028** Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm and selecting the self-referral to Social Prescribing option.

Or you can email
healthylives@shropshire.gov.uk
with the subject
"Social Prescribing self-referral".

Alternatively, you can ask for a referral at your GP practice.

Social Prescribing

"A very inspiring programme"

Walking groups

Befriending

Housing advice

Fitness classes

Social activities

NHS



Shropshire
Council

Shropshire
together



What is Social Prescribing?

Social Prescribing is a free and confidential service to help you improve your health and wellbeing. With the support of a trained advisor, you will be able to access further support and community groups in your area, such as:



Walking groups



Befriending



Housing advice



Fitness classes



Social activities



Employment support

"I find Social Prescribing a breath of fresh air and I'm so glad that my medical practice put me in touch with this process.

My advisor is a cheerful, compassionate, helpful person to deal with; she has advised me on many things throughout the past few weeks, listened and talked through my anxieties with me."

Social Prescribing client



Who is it for?

Social Prescribing can help if you:

- Feel lonely or isolated
- Are caring for someone
- Are feeling low, stressed or down
- You want to lose weight or quit smoking
- Want to get more active
- Need help accessing housing or financial advice
- Want to get involved with your local community
- Want to improve your management of a new or long term condition

"I felt listened to and heard. I felt valued and respected. I never felt pressured"



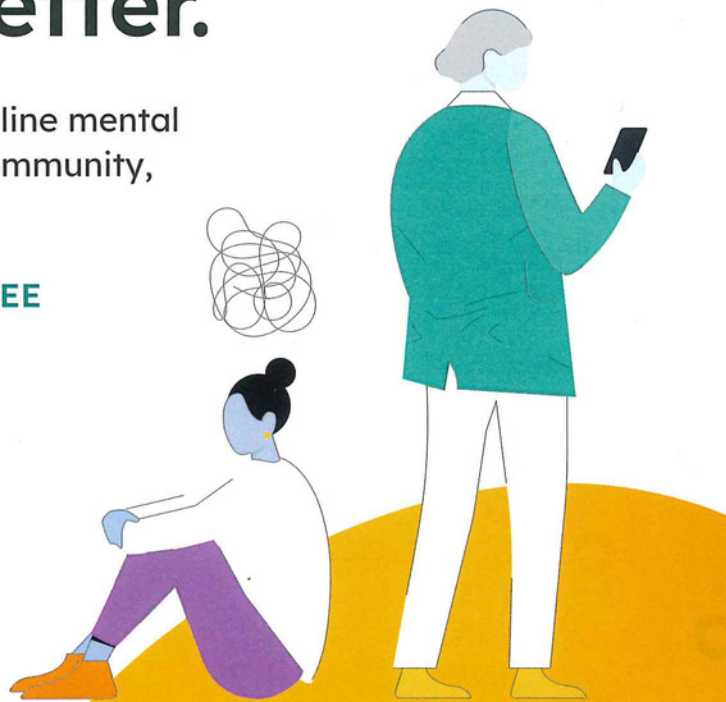
SCAN TO JOIN FOR
FREE TODAY

Get support. Take control. Feel better.

A confidential, online mental
health support community,
available 24/7.

Join today for **FREE**

16+



Sign up today with
your postal code

Visit **togetherall.com**