



MacIntyre Academies
Quest Academy

March 2018 Edition 1: Newsletter



“Quote of the week”

“Every day may not be good...but there's something good in every day”

Alice Morse Earle

WELCOME



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the end of our second term. As you will be aware from our last newsletter we will be holding our celebration, Easter Fair and family buffet on **Wednesday 28th March**. If you have not yet responded to our invitation please contact Toni-Anne.

Whilst the format of the day will be virtually the same as our last celebration day this time you will have the opportunity to look at your child's work, as well as speak to your child's teacher about their attainment and progress. In the Summer Term you will then receive a detailed written progress report as well as your logins for our assessment system Odyssey.

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed two additional teachers who will be starting Quest after Easter. Both are highly knowledgeable and qualified teachers who have extensive experience of working with pupils with ASD/SEMH and complex needs. I have also recruited an Educational Psychologist and Psychotherapist who will initially start to work with us for one day a week starting in May.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate some of our staff who have recently passed additional or updated their qualifications. (Some qualifications legally need to be updated within a set time period)

Jo Godding: - completed Chartered Accountancy Qualification

Anna Stelfox- Art Therapy Certificate.

Lee Martin – Team Teach Tutor

Chris Edwards Dewey – Advanced Team Teach Tutor

Ryan Alcock – Team Teach, PAT testing and IOSH

All staff- Safeguarding and Prevent

I am passionate that staff continue to develop their areas of expertise so that pupils at Quest receive a high level of education and support. During our INSET day in April Dr John Biddulph who is an ASD consultant will deliver ASD training to staff. Following this staff will continue to carry out research and undertake additional qualifications run by AET. Other members of staff are due to attend a range of one day courses, whilst others are working hard towards achieving Postgraduate and Masters qualifications.

Although we are a new school we pride ourselves on the quality of provision. We are currently working towards achieving Families First Award and Autism Accreditation.

You may be aware that the ESFA and BAM construction have submitted our detailed building application. If you would like to look at the drawings they can be accessed at <https://planning.warwickshire.gov.uk/swiftlg/MediaTemp/7911-15001.pdf> You will also be able to see the drawings in our reception area.

Next week we are holding our first Multi-Cultural Week. Each class have been tasked with finding out more about a specific country.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that pupils are not allowed to bring in fizzy or energy drinks into school.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your on-going support as it is key to ensuring that your son/daughter achieves their potential.

I look forward to meeting with you all on our last day of term .

Kind regards, *Nicola*

PERSONAL SPACE

The target is to support pupils' understanding of personal space and how to manage this in social situations.



Facts

- Individuals often misjudge others' personal space and or find it difficult to resist touching others.
- They may show sensory seeking behaviour and want to touch or fiddle with others clothing or hair etc.

Suggested Script

- I can see that you are quite close to X. Remember 'personal space'.
- It is not ok to touch X. Remember 'personal space'

Hints and Tips

- When you see pupil misjudging personal space prompt them to check their distance and remind them that it can make others feel uncomfortable if people are too close.
- Be aware of the classroom seating plan so that pupils are not squashed up together or that those with difficulties with sensory seeking behaviour are not too close to those who are worried about personal space



Gangsta Granny

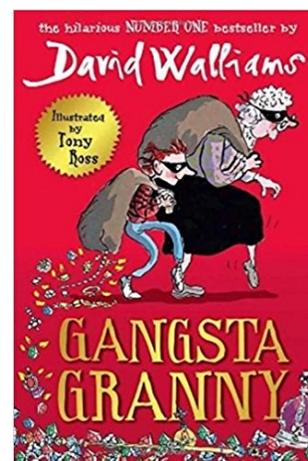
by David Walliams

A hilarious and moving novel from David Walliams, number one bestseller and fastest growing children's author in the country.

A story of prejudice and acceptance, funny lists and silly words, this new book has all the hallmarks of David's previous bestsellers.

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma.

- 1) She was once an international jewel thief.
- 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...



POSTER / VIDEO COMPETITION

The week beginning 26 March is National Autism week. In order to help our pupils have a better understanding of what autism is we will be holding an assembly. The closing date will be April 20th.

Following the assembly pupils will have the opportunity to enter a poster / video competition where they will need to highlight what autism is and outline useful strategies. The winners will have the opportunity to have their poster made into a window transfer to be put on display near reception or a video clip that can be posted onto our website.



Autistic people can get overloaded by everything around them.

It's like all the senses are firing, all at once. Like there's no filter. Like they're getting too much information and that makes the world a terrifying, isolating place. But it doesn't have to be like this. One small change from you could help to reduce the overload.

Whether you're at the shops, on public transport, at work or out with friends, a change as simple as using clear language, having a bit of patience, or avoiding last minute changes can really help. Understand autism, the person, and the change you can make.

Meltdowns

What is a meltdown? A meltdown is when an autistic person gets overwhelmed by everything around them, and may begin to shout, scream, cry or lose control.

What can I do? Spare a moment. First things first- try not to judge. Be patient, calmly ask if they're OK and give them some time and space to recover. That really is all it takes to help.

Unexpected changes

What's meant by 'unexpected changes'? The world can be an unpredictable, confusing place for autistic people, and that makes a set routine crucial for getting by. So when something unexpected still happens, it can feel like the whole world is spinning out of control.

What can I do? Give some warning. The best way for an autistic person to deal with unexpected changes is to, well, expect them! So if plans do change, let them know in advance. A little notice and understanding can go a long way.

Social anxiety

What can I do? Take an interest. Invite them to join in as much as they feel they want to. And if they're struggling, just offer some support. A little really can go a long way.

Give a minute. Ask one question as simply as you can, and just wait. If you still don't get a response, try rephrasing it or writing it down instead.

Processing time

What is it? Sometimes autistic people feel like they're getting 'too much information' and need a few moments to filter through it all. This is called processing time.

What can I do? Give a minute. Ask one question as simply as you can, and just wait. If you still don't get a response, try rephrasing it or writing it down instead.

Sensory overload

What is it? Autistic people can be sensitive to lights, sounds, smells and sights. This can lead to an overload – and a meltdown.

What can I do? Make some space. Lots of little things can add up to an overload of sensory information. Which means little things from you can cut this down- try to avoid talking over each other, turn down your music, or even just offer to dim glaring lights.

FOOD TECH



Pupils have been studying a bread topic this half term making rolls, loaves and cinnamon buns. Most have enjoyed making creative shapes out of their dough - if you look carefully you may be able to make out a sea cucumber or cookie monster.



As the Easter break is looming special treats have been planned. We are also collecting Easter eggs for our Tombola Stall at the Easter Fair on **Wednesday 28th March** and the Year 10 class has been busy practicing the foods they will be making for the finger buffet.



COMPASSIONATE SCHOOLS TEAM

COMING SOON

QUEST Academy Easter Holiday Activities

**11th April 2018
to 13th April 2018**

**Morning workshops 10.00am - 12noon
Afternoon workshop 1.00pm - 3.00pm**

Activities onsite include:

- Multi-sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Games Consoles
- Tony Reptile Show
- Cooking.

Activities offsite include:

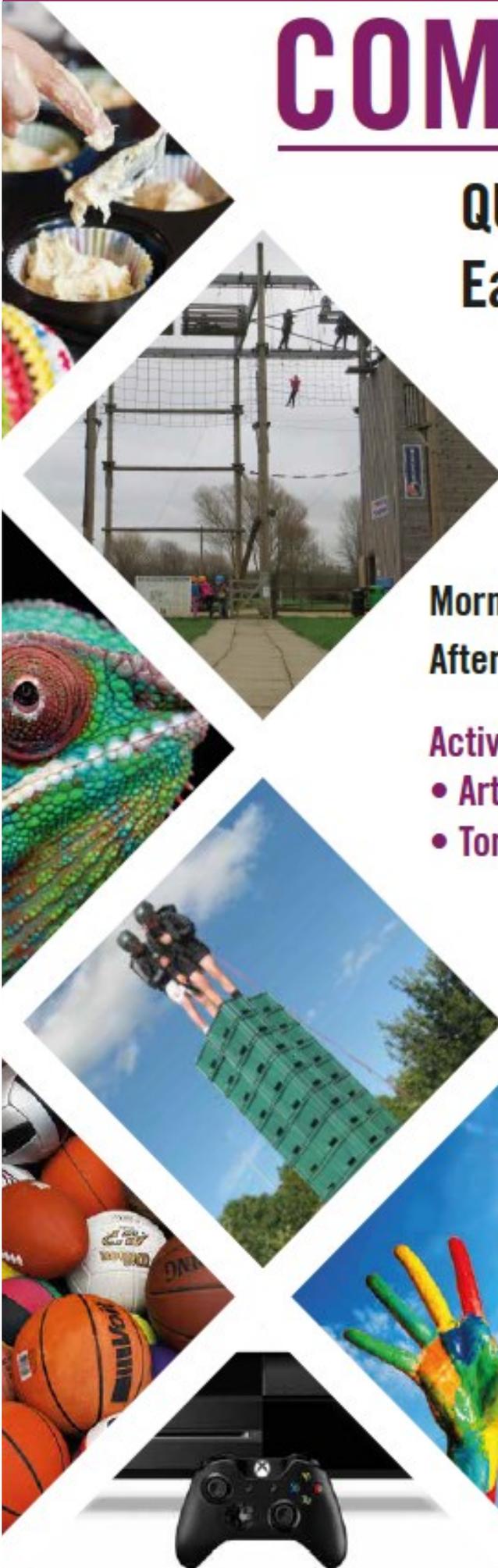


If your child is attending for the morning and afternoon workshop on that day then they will need a pack lunch

For more information please contact the Compassionate Schools team on 01788 593112

Places are limited and some activities may incur a cost

Parents/ Carers must drop off and collect



EASTER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES: QUEST EXTENDED SERVICES

At Quest we understand the added value that enrichment activities & holiday clubs can bring to the life skill development of all of our pupils.

In the future we hope to offer a variety of extended service opportunities to pupils and their wider family members throughout holidays (details to follow). Currently the Compassionate Schools Team are looking at possible funding applications, trust/ grants to ensure there are limited costs incurred if pupils want to take part in activities. At Quest we are fully aware that financial costs can act as a barrier in preventing young people taking part in opportunities.

During Easter we are offering a variety of opportunities, some of these are free and some we have put a charge in place to recover costs, as with all activities there are limited spaces available, your son/daughter will be given an enrollment form to look at with you, If they are interested in any of the activities they must tick what interest them.

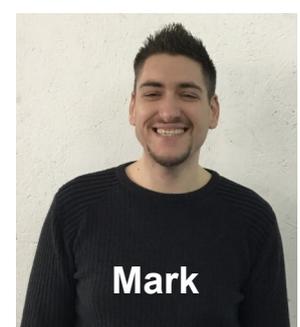
Activities in the week include, Multi-Sports, Consoles, Cooking, Arts & Crafts, High ropes at the Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre (LOPC) and a Reptile Visit from the amazing Tony Reptile Show.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact a member of the compassionate schools team.

Kind regards,

Compassionate Schools Team

***Timetable on
the next page**



QUEST Easter Activity Time Table

Wednesday 11th April

Multi Sports Activities

10am - 12pm
Cost = Free
10 Spaces

Arts & Crafts Workshop

1pm - 3pm
Cost = Free
10 Spaces

Thursday 12th April

Cooking

10am - 12pm
Cost = Free
4 Spaces

Tony Reptile Show

1pm - 3pm
Cost = £10.00
15 Spaces

Friday 13th April

Activity High Ropes

10am - 3pm Trip to Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Cost = 10.00
10 Spaces (pack lunch required)

Console club will run for mornings and afternoons daily at QUEST places limited



For more information please contact the Compassionate Schools team on 01788 593112

SAFEGUARDING



National
Online
Safety



What is 'Trolling'?

'Trolling' is a form of internet slang. A 'troll' is described as somebody who deliberately posts negative or offensive comments online against others. A troll will ultimately post something offensive to provoke an individual for a reaction. Trolls use social media accounts to post their opinions which may be anything from racial, homophobic or sexist hate. The motive maybe that they wish to showcase an opinion, or generate humour, however the pragmatics of what they post could be much more damaging. Trolling can lead to devastating consequences for some victims.

Where does 'Trolling' occur?

Trolling can happen to anyone, at any time when using the Internet. Trolls tend to target people they don't know, for example, celebrities, in order to try and provoke a reaction from their fan base. It's important to recognise that 'trolling' can occur on any online platform where communication is possible. Social media is the most common platform for trolling, due to its accessibility and ease of sharing posts.



What is the law?

In October 2016, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) introduced new laws that could see those who create "derogatory hashtags" or post "humiliating" photoshopped images jailed. They also announced the launch of a hate crime consultation, issuing a series of public policy statements centred on combating crimes against disabled people, as well as racial, religious, homophobic and transphobic hate crime.



Trolling offences include:

Communications sent
via social media

Virtual mobbing

Cyber bullying

Disclosing private sexual
images without consent

Coercion and control

Cyber stalking
and harassment

TERM DATES 2017- 18

- ◆ Term starts Monday 8th January 2018 - Thursday 29th March 2018

Half Term - Monday 19th February - Friday 23rd February 2018

- ◆ Term: Tuesday 17th April 2018 - Friday 20th July 2018

Half Term – Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018

- ◆ Term starts Monday 4th June - Friday 20th July 2018

INSET DAYS (no school)

- ◆ Thursday 29th March 2018
- ◆ Monday 16th April 2018

SAFEGUARDING

Keeping children safe in school is every school's priority. As part of our Visitors' Policy, we require all visitors to sign in at reception and read and sign our Visitor's Code of Conduct. Please, therefore, do not take offence when our office staff ask you to adhere to our procedures. Should any parent /carer feel unable to comply, we will be unable to let you past the reception area.

Quest Contact details

Quest Academy,
St David's Way,
Bermuda Park,
Nuneaton
CV10 7SD

E: quest.office@macintyreacademies.org

T: 01788 593 112



How to contact members of staff:

Please contact Reception if you would like to speak with a member of staff. You will either be transferred or reception will e-mail the member of staff to let them know that you have called.

Reporting pupil absence and lateness:

If your child is absent for more than 7 days you will need to provide a doctors certificate. If we do not receive a doctors note and have not seen your child we will have no alternative but to refer the matter to the Safeguarding Board in line with our safeguarding procedures.