



SEND AT OBA



At the end of this academic year, I would like to take this time to celebrate the many achievements of our young people. I have been so impressed by the resilience and strength shown by so many of our students, by the friendships they have developed and by the progress they are making in lessons. This is reflected in the number of positive comments we have received from parents and students about the support with SEND at OBA.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Teaching Assistants for all the incredible work they do in supporting students, running interventions and generally being the beating heart of the SEND team. Next year we are continuing to run many of our successful interventions such as EPIC club, Beat Dyslexia and Breakfast Club to name a few, so please look out for information about what is available.

If your child is starting with us in September, please read the information about Transition carefully so that we can aim to have a successful and positive start to the year. We endeavour to support all our SEND children as much as possible so please contact me if you have any concerns or mention it to the member of staff who contacts you from the SEND team.

Leigh Drew
SENCO

I would like to introduce myself as the new Deputy SENCo. I have worked at OBA for 7 years having previously worked in another school in Cambridgeshire for 15 years. Since joining OBA I have become the Access Arrangement Assessor and have also now qualified as a SENCo.



My new role officially starts in September but I have been enjoying getting stuck in already with some of the year 6 transition activities as well as supporting a number of our students. I have also done a lot of work with the year 11 students helping them with their transition into post-16 education.

I look forward to meeting you and your children over the coming year and if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Carla Jones
Deputy SENCo and Access Arrangement Assessor

SEND TOP TIPS

Julie Wilderspin
Higher Level Teaching Assistant



Dyslexia is most commonly associated with students experiencing difficulties with learning to read. It affects a student's ability to decode new words or break down a word into manageable chunks, so that they can sound them out.

Reading for pleasure will not be a chore if the student enjoys what they are reading about. Reading for pleasure has also been found to improve a student's confidence and self-esteem.

Useful tips to encourage reading:

E-Readers - Reading applications for mobile phones and e-readers such as kindles have been found to enable students with dyslexia to be able to read for pleasure more easily.

If your child has an E-Reader they are welcome to bring it into school for their reading lessons. We will just need your consent that you give permission for it to be in school,

Audiobooks - Audiobooks can also help a student to develop an interest in reading whilst developing their listening and concentration skills. There are many websites that offer free audiobooks that students can access.

Useful websites for information and advice:

- British Dyslexia Association - For information and latest news click [HERE](#)
- Good Sensory Learning provides access to educational materials that can help support students with Dyslexia - click [HERE](#) for more information
- Defeat Dyslexia provides guidance, learning resources and support for parents of children with dyslexia - click [HERE](#) for more information
- Listening Books is a UK charity that supports individuals with dyslexia by giving them access to audiobooks - click [HERE](#) for more information
- Barrington Stoke are an organisation supporting every child in becoming a reader - click [HERE](#) for support with how to inspire your child to unlock a love for reading



YEAR 6 INTO 7 TRANSITION



Starting Secondary School

Transitioning between different stages of education is always difficult, but for SEND students the change can feel even more challenging.

Being prepared and organised is the best way to help your child so please have a look at our Top Tips!

Effective communication is essential for both schools and any agencies involved with your child. Please keep us informed of any changes or relevant information regarding your child.

Transition Top Tips!

- Over the summer do the journey to school as often as possible- don't wait for the first day in September.
- Talk to your child as much as possible about September and enable them to share any concerns.
- Try on uniform! Practice getting dressed into their uniform and PE kit. If there are concerns around tying shoes laces or doing up ties, please be assured that this is completely normal in year 7 and staff are around and ready to help.
- Your child's primary school will have passed on all relevant information, but if there is anything else you think we should know then please tell us.
- Think about as many 'What if?' scenarios. What if I get lost? What if I lose my timetable?
- Create daily checklists to help your child remember which days they need PE kits and different equipment.



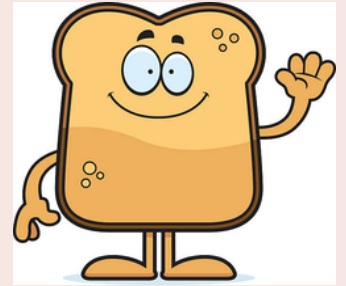
Useful websites for information and advice:

- The parents' guide to secondary school transition. [Click HERE](#)
- Coping with school life: practical strategies to help autistic children. [Click HERE](#)
- Supporting children's transition to secondary school- a guide. [Click HERE](#)
- Mental Health Charity 'Place 2 Be' has some excellent resources on Transition. [Click HERE](#)
- Place 2 Be further resources: [Click HERE](#)

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club is a warm and welcoming club open to invited students who might need some additional support to help them with a positive start to the day.

It runs 5 days a week from **8.15- 8.40** beginning from Tuesday 5th September. Your child will be met by members of staff at the main entrance and they will be offered juice, toast and a friendly smile. Students can discuss any concerns they might have about the day ahead or just enjoy spending some time with some other students.



If this is something your child would be interested in then please let us know,

YOUNG MINDS TRANSITION GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Young Minds has an excellent section on transition and how parents can help. I definitely recommend reading it. Your children need support, but it is really important for parents to feel supported too which will in turn help you to know how to best help. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

YOUNGmINDS
fighting for young people's mental health



“Secondary school isn't as hard as you think”

“If you are scared about getting lost or travelling to school, ask for help and tips about how to get around”

“You're allowed to feel upset or scared. You might not be the only one who feels this way”

“Getting your feelings out can help – whether that's writing, drawing or talking to someone you trust”

“If you're worried about everything being different in secondary try to get advice from people you know that are in secondary school”

“Find out what works for you to get through bad days”

“You may be nervous and scared but its okay. At first it may be rocky but it gets better”

Find Your Feet
YOUNGmINDS
stepping up, moving up, growing up



Nisha Smith
Teaching Assistant



Nicole Williams
Teaching Assistant

ZONES OF REGULATION

This year Miss Smith and Miss Williams have been working with some students using Zones of Regulation. It is a system that categorizes emotions and helps students to improve their ability to recognise their emotions and communicate how they are feeling in a safe, non-judgemental way.

In sessions we discuss the different zones and teach students which emotions are associated with each zone. We look at how different scenarios might affect what zone they are in, what emotion they are feeling as well as expected and unexpected behaviours.

Once students have an understanding of the different emotions and the zones, we start to look at strategies and tools that can be used which include sensory tools, breathing techniques and inner coach vs inner critic. Once tools and strategies have been decided, we look at when to use these tools and also look at situations that they have been in where a tool could have been used.

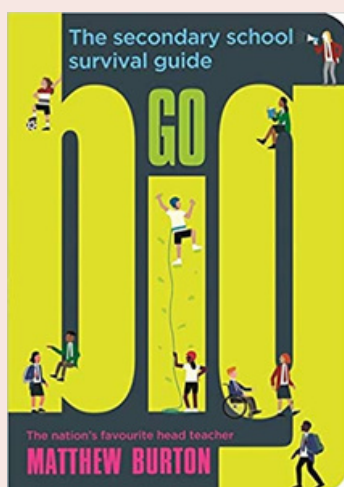


RECOMMENDED BOOKS FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD



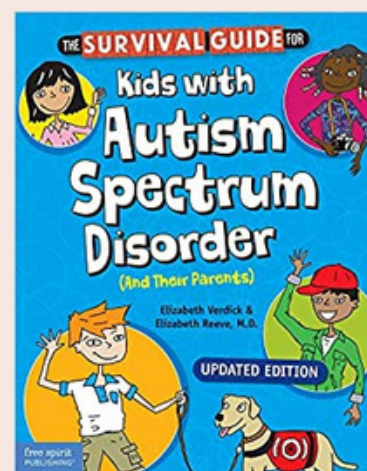
This book is part of the Big Bright Feelings series by Tom Percival. It provided a perfect springboard for talking to children about sharing their hidden worries.

A perceptive and poignant story that is the perfect book for discussing childhood worries and anxieties, no matter how big or small they may be.



This book provides a great guide to secondary school to support students in everything from the primary to secondary school transition to their final exams.

This handbook will have you achieving, succeeding and being the best you can be. Find great friends, boost your confidence and start building toward your brilliant future.



This book helps to support young people with autism to understand their unique gifts and needs and learn strategies to navigate a neurotypical world.

This positive, straightforward book offers kids with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) their own comprehensive resource for both understanding their condition and finding tools to cope with the challenges they face every day.



Carla Jones
Deputy SENCo

PETERBOROUGH COLLEGE TRIP

Last term a group of year 11 students went to Peterborough College to experience college life and help with the transition to their post-16 education. We arrived at the college in time for a very delicious lunch followed by a tour of the college and chats with some of the subject tutors.



We visited Hospitality and Catering, Construction, Hair and Beauty and the Art department. We were all very impressed by the bricklaying, plumbing, electrician and carpentry areas where we got to see practical learning taking place; we also saw lots of our lovely ex-OBA students hard at work!

What was also really lovely was that some of our students realised how 'at home' they felt in some of the areas of the college- the Art department in particular felt like a really welcoming and calming space for some of our students. We also learnt that there is a lot of support available (Learning Support in lessons, ASD calm zones, support for lunch and breaks, meet and greet at the start and end of the day... to name but a few!)



Although the transition to college can still be a daunting time, the visit has helped many of our students to feel more confident about this next stage. We have got lots more events planned including support with college applications, transport information and further college visits. Attached is a transition guide from the Inspire Education Group (Peterborough and Stamford Colleges) or if you have any questions please contact carla.jones@bushfield.co.uk

"The curriculum is well developed to meet the needs of pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)"

Ofsted 2019

LOCAL OFFER



A guide to the Local Offer can be found [HERE](#)

For more information about the SEND Provision in Peterborough City Council and the Local Offer click [HERE](#)

PETERBOROUGH POST 16 OFFER

For more information about the Post 16 SEND Provision in Peterborough click [HERE](#)



Family Action recognises that (SEND) information for parents can often be hard to find or difficult to access so have brought together key topics, links and resources. To access this information please visit Family action click [HERE](#).

FAMILY ACTION

SEND INFORMATION ADVICE AND SUPPORT SERVICE

The Parent Partnership Service providing Cambridgeshire's SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers impartial and confidential information, advice and support to parents and carers who have a child or young person with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or have concerns that their child has special educational needs. They also offer impartial and confidential information, advice and support to young people and children with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or who have concerns they may have special educational needs. For information click [HERE](#)



SEND REFERRAL



Please remember that a parent/carers, teacher or any other educational professional at OBA, plus of course any child themselves can request an SEND assessment. Should you wish to refer a child for an SEND assessment then please contact our SENCO Mr Leigh Drew on SEND@bushfield.co.uk