# Summer 2 Newsletter



## Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the summer term draws to a close, I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your support and dedication throughout the academic year. It has been a journey filled with growth, resilience, and countless achievements, and I am immensely proud of each and every one of our students at Educate U.

I want to say a huge thank you to the parents and carers who came to our first ever Educate U summer fair. It was so wonderful to see our children and families enjoying themselves, and for our children and young people with their siblings and cousins to show off their school. The school and garden looked like a mini-festival, the barbeque was a success and lots of prizes were won!

Yesterday felt so bittersweet as we said our farewells to our remaining Year 11 leavers and students who left us yesterday.  The transformative power of nurture within education and small class sizes was so apparent when you see children leave Year 11 with their heads held high, with pride and with an academic skillset and level of independence that they have gained. There were (happy) tears, lots of hugs and lots of happy memories shared.

This term has been particularly special as we've witnessed our students' progress and accomplishments first hand. From academic milestones to personal victories, growth and progress. It's been a joy to see our children and young people flourish in their own unique ways whether that be with our outdoor provision such as bikeability, or on their own ASDAN related personal projects such as cookbook creations.

I also want to pay tribute the incredible efforts of our dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly to provide the highest quality education and support to our children and young people. Their passion, expertise, and commitment have been instrumental in shaping the positive learning environment we have at Educate U.

The summer break can feel daunting for our children and some will struggle with the change in routine with both ending school for summer, and returning to us in September. To support connection with the school, friendships and transitions, we run Stay and Play sessions each Thursday in August. Each week is themed and is a lot of fun. Please do bring your children if you think they would benefit.

As we approach the summer break, I encourage our children and young people to take this time to rest, recharge, and reflect on their achievements. Whether that is by spending time with family, pursuing hobbies, or simply enjoying the sunshine, should it decide to appear. Whatever the weather, I hope our families and our young people make the most of this very well-deserved break.

Warm regards,

Sarah Paoletti

Headteacher

## Staffing

**Fond Farewell**

We bid a fond farewell to:

Dermot Morrison. Dermot leaves us to pursue other opportunities and I know he will be missed by students and staff alike.

Victoria Burchfield leaves us at the end of term and we wish her every success in her new role. Victoria has been a mainstay with our KS4 students as their teaching assistant and will be missed.

Noa Goldman, teaching assistant in Mike’s class, also leaves us at the end of term at the end of her contract, and we wish her every success in her future career.

Terri Lawson, teaching assistant in Primary is sadly no longer with Educate U, and we wish her well in the future.



**Welcome**

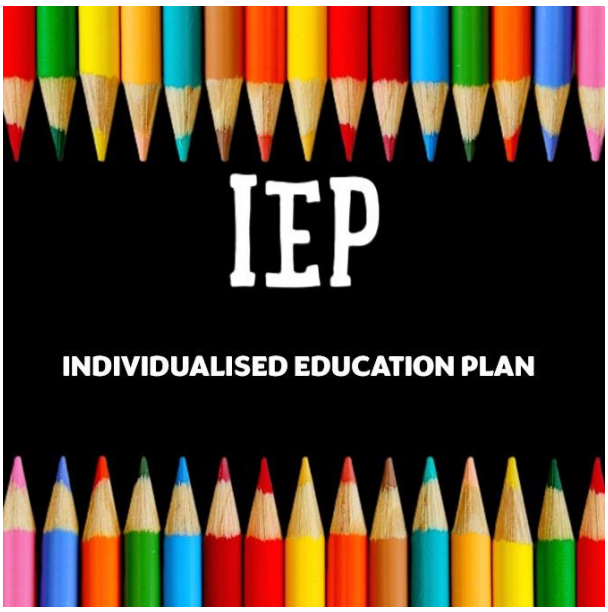
**Katy Sharpe -** an experienced and nurturing teacher who has a wealth of teaching experience and knowledge of SEN. Katy will be joining us full time from September.

**Niamh Barlow -** will be joining us as a Teaching Assistant in Katy's class. Niamh will also be joining full time in September.

## Change to Academic Calendar

Due to a staffing training need and trainer provider, we have moved an INSET day. INSET day has been moved from Thursday 17th July 2025 to Friday 11th October 2024. IEP day has been moved from 16th July 2025 to 17th July 2025. These have been revised on the school calendar at the bottom of this newsletter.

## IEP Day




What an incredible IEP day we had! It was wonderful to see so many families come together to support their children. Your presence and active participation made the day truly special. Collaborating on individualised plans for our children's education is at the heart of what we do, and your engagement reflects the strong partnership between home and school that we value dearly and ensures person-centred planning for our children and young people. Your child's new IEP plan will be sent to you by the end of today (18/7/24).

## JCQ Inspection Feedback

JCQ CIC

Joint Council for Qualifications

Since the last newsletter, we have had a further two unannounced inspections from JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications). One was a QPI (Question Paper Integrity) inspection, which is an inspection to check that the exam papers are stored and managed in accordance with the regulations. We have also had a 'General Inspection' where an inspector robustly checks everything exam related within our centre and they do it during an exam to ensure our policies, procedures, protocols, & knowledge are all accurate and that we are following the

regulations at all times within the exam cycle. All schools receive these inspections, and we are immensely proud to say that we have passed all the inspections with flying colours!

## Residential Trip  - Lodge Hill

The Primary class had an amazing residential trip to Lodge Hill, where the students and staff challenged themselves by taking part in some new and exciting activities.

Across two days, they enjoyed joining in with the high zip line, abseiling, crate stacking, tunnelling, rifling and a low rope course.

All the staff were blown away by how all the children embraced the activities and faced their fears - it was lovely to see them support each other, and cheer each other on when the nerves crept in. We ended the days with a campfire - toasting marshmallows, singing songs and making our own fires which everyone enjoyed.

It was a real pleasure to spend this quality time with the children where happy memories were created, and lots of connections were built - the students are already talking about going back next year!







## Primary Curriculum Trip  - Amberley Museum

As part of our 'Transport' topic, the Primary students enjoyed a trip to Amberley Museum.

We started the day with a play in the park, before riding on the vintage bus to the museum where the children enjoyed looking at the old cars and trains, taking part in some hands-on activities in the electricity hall and learning about communication in the past by looking at the different phones! They especially loved learning how to use a switch board and calling

each other on the handsets provided. The students were also able to ride the outdoor train and they asked some great questions about how the train worked to the driver.

We had a lovely day and enjoyed talking about what we had seen when we were back at school.







## Alternative Outdoor Trips

This half term has seen Educate U firmly out and about in the community as we expand our learning experiences beyond the classroom. We utilised our very own garden area to sow seeds, harvest them, then create delightful food dishes. Our locality plays such an important part of our children's education and life skills development with one child negotiating with local market traders for the best possible price on their produce to support his cooking programme. This child has worked extremely hard to produce a cookbook from the varieties grown. Such was the professionalism of the cookbook, copies were printed, sold, raising more than £100 for a chosen local charity.




MULTI PURPOSE
MULTI PURPOSE


LEMONS





The children made full use of local gym equipment when our usual facility was closed for maintenance and our regular visits to the local leisure centre to use their running track is always a favourite.

To support our ASDAN curriculum, children visited local shops to explore the range of personal products to maintain hygiene and keep us in tip top condition.

With all that effort we just had to have a bit of chill time, so children explored the local sports venue to brush up on their pool skills and the ever favourite trip to Littlehampton to go crabbing could not be missed! -

## Bikeability

We are excited to share the success of our recent Bikeability week, held from 24th June at the Sidney Walters Centre in Worthing. Our students showed amazing determination and enthusiasm, making great progress, and having fun. Every student worked towards their personal best. Some students started the week never having ridden a bike, and by the end, they were confidently riding around with big smiles. Those who had never ridden on roads before now feel ready to enjoy bike rides with friends and family.

During the week, most children learned to:

- Cycle safely and responsible.
- Spot and respond to hazards.
- Start and stop on-road journeys.
- Maintain good riding positions.
- Share the road and communicate with other road users.
- Follow signals, signs, and road markings.
- Manage risks while cycling.
- Handle junctions, including side roads, T junctions, crossroads, and roundabouts.

These important skills not only keep our students safe but also give them the confidence to explore the world on two wheels. The experience was both fun and educational, mixing physical activity with valuable life skills. Given the success and positive feedback, we are excited to make Bikeability an annual event at our school. We believe every student should have the chance to take part at all levels, developing a love for cycling and the outdoors.

Thank you to all the staff, instructors, and especially our amazing effort from our students for making Bikeability week such a success. We look forward to seeing even more students benefit from this fantastic program in the future!



## CCRAG Inspection

In March 2024 we welcomed 5 inspectors from both West Sussex children's commissioning team and Brighton and Hove's commissioning team and they inspected the school for a whole day as part of a CRAGG (Children's Cross Regional Arrangements Group) inspection. The report was released at the end of May 2024 and we were all delighted with the findings of the inspection.

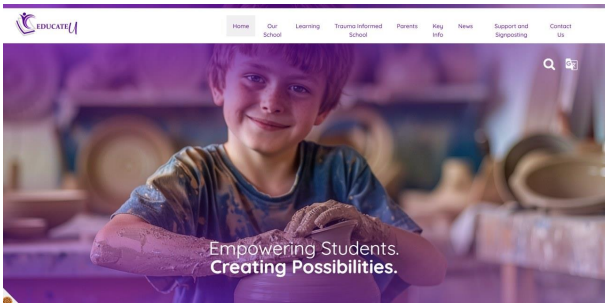
"Educate U is an Independent Non-Maintained Specialist School right in the town centre of Worthing and currently supports 37 pupils, 33 of which are WSCC. This school provides support for CYPs with ASC, ADHD, high anxiety, attachment, and trauma needs. The therapeutic offer at the school is strong and the dedication to the CYPs is visible in all the conversation we have had with the Leadership team. The school also recognises the

importance family and carers have in the education journey of the pupils and the support for them is there if so required. The school has recently implemented a semi-formal curriculum and this has been a success in terms of learning and attendance. The school is now at 82.46% attendance, really good given the cohort of pupils that attends the provision. We visited the school and wondered around the classrooms and hallways and were always welcomes by pupils and staff alike. The school recognises this may be a hard environment to work in and support is in place for staff members. The pupils are also slowly eased into their responsibilities, there is no punishment, instead there is conversations and debriefs of challenging situations. The pupils we spoke to were communicative, some more playful and some more shy but overall welcoming. The relationships staff members have with the student seems really good. Staff members are properly supported and the headteachers passion is visible. The Leadership Team seems to share the same vision for Educate U and the pupils and seem to work well together. There is a lot of work and preparation beforehand before school start in September and [Leaders] took us through the detailed lesson plans and explained us how success and outcomes are measured against each pupil's EHCP targets. All this information is monitored and recorded on Earwig"

## New Educate U Website

Long awaited and officially launching today we are delighted to unveil our brand new website, and we couldn't have done it without you! Back in January 2024, we asked our incredible community of parents and carers for feedback on how to enhance our online platform. Your response invaluable with around 25% of our parents and carers offering relevant and helpful suggestions. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to you for your feedback. This was instrumental in shaping the content and layout of our new website to better meet your needs. The main themes that emerged from your suggestions included signposting to services which support parents of children with SEN, up-to-date staffing information and information about staff, resources on conditions affecting our children and young people, curriculum information, improved site accessibility, futures and academic pathways and information on how the school supports children with special educational needs. We're proud to announce that our new website incorporates these themes as much as possible, ensuring a user-friendly experience tailored to our school community's needs. Thank you for your contributions in making our online platform a true reflection of our commitment to serving our school community better.

educateu.co.uk




## News from School Council




The time finally came and the student council had the grand opening of the new refurbished cabin, the Zen Den! On Friday 12th July we invited everyone to join us in cutting the ribbon. The student council have worked so hard in making sure this space is a calming and relaxing environment for them and their peers to use. We are so proud of how many ideas they have been able to implement and as you can see from the photos it looks amazing. The students have given more ideas as to what else they would like to have in there, we look forward to implementing their ideas.

On Monday 15th July the student council went out on yet another trip to deliver a thank you photo frame to Farplants. This company very kindly donated a substantial number of plants for our summer fair. They were very thankful for us to visit them and the student council members managed to ask them a few question about their business. We also walked away happy as they have already agreed to donate more to our future fairs.

As the summer approaches it has been lovely to look back and reflect on what the student council has achieved this year and we can't wait to see what next year brings.


Zen
Den


Lego wall
sensory board


Perfect







## Summer Fair

The Summer Fair was amazing!

It was so good to see all of us together having so much fun, the  weather was kind to us which allowed us all to have the best time. The Tombola proved to be a popular stall as did soak the teacher 😂 The cakes made by Kinga and Darcy were an absolute dream and tasted as good as they looked, and BBQ had the best burgers in Worthing! Lots of amazing prizes were won on the raffle which is also a firm favourite with us all !

Thank you to everyone that came and made the afternoon so memorable . We are already planning the next one!


SUMMER
FAIR











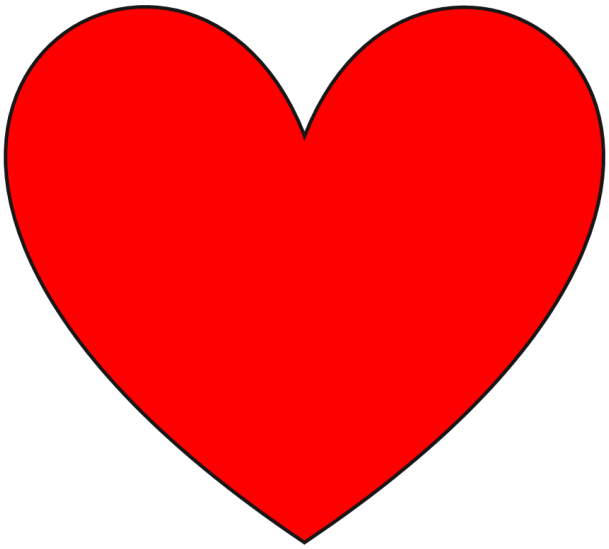



Lucky dip!
A PRIZE
EVRYTIME..
50P a go



## Therapy House

At times of change therapy house helps to support our students to reflect and manage transitions and endings. For the students who have saying goodbye to their classrooms for 6 weeks and our wonderful year 11's who will be saying a final goodbye, we have been available to offer our therapeutic support and care.



Offering our students a calm space to be able to process their transitions and endings doesn't just help to manage their school experiences but can help to build a stronger resilience to any changes they may face as they navigate adolescences and adulthood.

The special and uniqueness of a therapeutic relationship helps our neurological wellbeing by activating the limbic system through warmth and safety which has been evidenced to promote positive changes to confidence and self-esteem.

We have been using our time to acknowledge special relationships and key attachments that have been created within their classes and exploring how our young people feel about having to move classes away from their important people. This isn't always done through words and one of Therapy's houses strengths is the creative resources we can offer the students. From puppets, music, movement, play or paint our children lead the way in how they communicate their feelings to us.

**Yoga**

Our Yoga intervention can also provide students with important self-regulating strategies which can assist on soothing anxiety. Transitions and endings can invoke anxious or upsetting feelings and we are very proud to have a unique Yoga space to offer the children. Yoga has been proven to have a positive effect on the areas of the brain which are critical for self-regulation. When we feel safe in our bodies, we begin to feel safe communicating in healthy ways to express our feelings and thoughts. Yoga offers that opportunity.

When there are wobbles around endings or change, we like to reflect on that famous AA Milne quote.

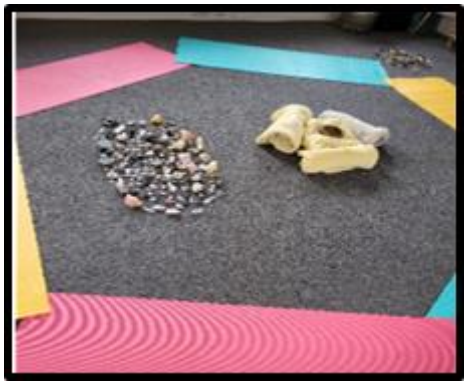
*"How lucky I am to have had something that makes saying goodbye so hard*."

We are wishing

- All our families a lovely summer holidays.
- Happy new beginnings for September.
- A bright and brilliant future for our wonderful year 11 leavers.







## Stay and Play




Summer holidays are here and we are ready for our fun Stay and Play sessions through the summer! It will be every Thursday in August with plenty of fun activities for the whole family. Please bring a towel and change of clothes as we will be getting wet! Hopefully the weather will stay dry for us but there will always be an alternative if weather proves to be typically British! Planned activities are as follows:

August 1st- Pizza making and a garden assault course

August 8th- Splash pad and a mini barbeque

August 15th- Cake baking and mask making

August 22nd- Water play at the park

August 29th- Snowballs and party games

Timings are 10am to 1.30pm.

The cost is £5 per day – this covers the family group, not just one person.

Please book in to your chosen session/s on our website: Educate U - Stay and Play Holiday Club

## Futures

**Your Future; Our Guidance**

We have seen the Futures provision grow momentously throughout this academic year and I would like to thank staff, students and parents/carers for their aid in raising the profile of Futures across the school.

**Thank you to our guests and hosts!**

This year we welcomed a wonderful range of outside speakers. DV8 from Brighton wowed our students with their wonderful provision focusing on the world of media and the benefits of further study. We welcomed the Armed forces into our midst as they explained the range of different career opportunities serving our country. Several further education provisions visited and showed off their amazing provisions and explained how they best could suit our students' individual needs. Our students were also able to visit further education provisions such as Plumpton and Brinsbury which enabled them to see their next steps in action.

**Futures Afternoon**

We are delighted to share the highlights of our recent Year 8 and 9 Futures Afternoons, an inspiring event designed to guide our students towards making informed choices about their future education and career paths. The session provided invaluable insights into the various pathways available to our young learners. Staff ran through details about the functional skills Maths and English pathways and how these apply to post-16 courses that are available after year 11. We also spoke about ASDAN courses and how these project-based learning topics help our students gain a valuable qualification that is recognised in the wider world and teacher our young people excellent life skills. Our SENDCO was on hand to talk about access arrangements which was very valuable to ensure that all students get the specific aid needed. Our bespoke curriculum offer was explained to help students and parents and

carers decide on what the academic journey looks like with us at Educate U. We thank all parents who attended and look forward to seeing you again in the next academic year.

**How you can help**

We are still always looking for our community to help give our students opportunities to broaden their horizons. If you have contacts that could aid with potential work experience for our students or could arrange a career related visit to your place of work, please make contact with mike@educateu.co.uk at your nearest convenience.

## SENDCo Round Up




As the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) at Educate U, I wanted to take the opportunity to say what a pleasure it has been meeting so many of you during the Annual Review meetings throughout the year. Your insights and feedback have been invaluable in tailoring our approaches and interventions to better serve your children and the young people in your care.

Throughout the year I have been working on key elements to support our young people:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy and ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils needs up to date.
- Liaising with other schools and health and social care professionals. I have weekly meetings with our Therapy Team and Educational Psychologist, Priya to discuss how we can support all our students.
- Acting as a key point of contact for external agencies, especially Jessica Morgan, our SENAT coordinator, who is invited to all our Annual Reviews.
- Working with Mike, our Futures lead, to ensure pupils and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned onto the next stage of their education.
- Working with the Grace, as exams officer, to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities with regard to Access Arrangements for all students in year 9, 10 and 11 and to ensure the young person can access any formal exams with confidence with the right support in place.
- Arranging assessments for new students (where appropriate) and on-going assessments within school such as dyslexia and dyscalculia testing to further support

our young people. Parents/carers of all new students will be guided through a new starter booklet to ensure the school have a complete understanding of the students' needs before starting and this will be shared with the support team at school and therapy house. I also contact the previous school to ensure we have a full picture of need.

- Sensory circuits were introduced this year, to assist with self-regulation through movement. This involved regular intervention where students physically participated in sensory movement through the use of sensory equipment like bouncing, balloon control and deep pressure. They used balance control and use touch and pressure to help regulation. Vicki G trained and worked with me to make these sessions a success.
- Sensory audits (where appropriate) for those students who may need extra support with their sensory needs. The classroom may be modified or sensory items purchased to support full engagement in classroom learning.
- Leading relevant training INSET for staff at the school with strategies to support teachers and TA's in the classroom.
- Conducting all the Annual Reviews. I will be in touch with each family/carer to ensure that the annual reviews meet the statutory deadlines. Parents/carers will be given lots of support to ensure these run smoothly either in person or over a TEAMs call. The class teacher will be present to ensure that all questions can be answered accurately and we ask that the young person contributes their views either in person or via a questionnaire.
- Updating EHCP's that are out of date. Once a student has a new diagnosis or their circumstances have changed, the EHCP will need updating to reflect current needs. Please do contact me to discuss and we will work with the planning coordinator at SENAT to ensure the document is updated.

Please do contact me if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, I am here to listen and support you in any way I can: georgina@edcuateu.co.uk

Georgina Spoor, SENDCO

## Forest School

Over the past half term, our Forest School has seen wonderful progress and growth. With the transition before the summer holidays, our student groups have changed, bringing fresh dynamics and opportunities for new friendships. Recognizing the importance of these new beginnings, we offered the start of each Forest School day to team-building and problem-solving activities. These exercises have been central in fostering communication, cooperation,

caring, and understanding among our students, setting a solid foundation throughout the sessions.

The joy of being in the woodland environment continues to be a highlight for our students. Responding to their enthusiastic requests, we have added two new tree swings, which have quickly become favourites. These swings are not just for fun—they also serve as regulatory tools, much like our well-loved hammocks, providing students with a calming and enjoyable way to self-regulate.

Our Yoga tent has also been a popular spot, offering a peaceful space for relaxation activities and reflexology. Recently, students celebrated the solstice by engaging in creative activities like making nature crowns, which added a festive touch to our sessions.

The traditional Forest School activities remain a fundamental, with children eagerly participating in whittling, fire building, and other hands-on tasks. Safety is always a priority, and while we ensure all procedures are followed, we also empower students to assess and manage risks with the support of our staff. This approach not only builds practical skills but also instils confidence and independence.

During our Forest School days, one of the most valued times is lunch around the fire circle. Here, students and staff come together to prepare and enjoy a variety of foods, creating a warm, friendly, and inviting atmosphere. These moments are more than just meals; they are about sharing, community, and making lasting memories.

Our Forest School continues to be a place where students thrive, explore, and grow. We are excited to see what the next half term brings and look forward to more adventures and discoveries in the woodland. Thank you for your ongoing support and enthusiasm for our Forest School program!







## Wellbeing




As we head into the summer holiday, I just wanted to look at proposed developments over the coming academic year. Following the achievement of the school being awarded the Wellbeing Award for School we have continued to look at the school and how we can

monitor our whole school approach. From September we will be looking at systems to gather staff / parent carer and guardian and pupil voice around mental health and wellbeing provision and again change and adapt around the feedback we receive. These changes could be on a holistic whole school community basis or for an individual student depending on need.

As a school, we will also be looking at our trauma informed practice and how it is embedded within the school. This practice is based around the Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect module which underpins the mental health and wellbeing support, providing emotionally available adults for our students coupled with building stronger relationships with everyone in the whole school community.

Have a great summer break and we look forward to supporting and reconnecting with everyone in September. - Mark Brown, Senior Mental Health Lead.

## Liverpool Gardens

We are thrilled to announce that Educate U has recently acquired additional space at Liverpool Gardens in Worthing. This new facility, which is a stone's throw from Educate U (around a minute walk) boasts six bright and airy rooms, which we plan to utilise for our vital speech and language interventions, as well as occupational therapy interventions, including sensory circuits. This expansion will also allow us to relocate our examinations centre to the new building, thereby freeing up space within the school to create more regulation areas for our children and young people. We are excited about the opportunities this new space will provide to enhance the support and resources available to our students.

## Parent and Carer Voice

At Educate U we believe in the power of collaboration between parents, carers, and our school community. Your feedback is instrumental in shaping the direction of our educational journey. That's why we are introducing a regular Parent and Carer Voice survey. Through this brief survey you can share your thoughts and let us know how we're doing, helping us to identify areas for improvement and better meet the needs of our children and young people. To streamline this process, we'll be providing a new snapshot survey at the end of each term (Summer, Autumn, Spring), ensuring that your voices are heard regularly. We invite you to participate by completing a brief Microsoft Form, where you can share your feedback with us. Together, we can continue to develop a supportive and inclusive environment where every child can thrive and work towards our shared goal of excellence in holistic special school education.

**https://forms.office.com/e/i6MHucz5xg**

## SEND Home / School Transport

The SEND commissioning team would like to hear families views and experiences on SEND Home / School transport!

They want to know more about what is working well and where things can be improved. Their aim is to then share these results with West Sussex County Council and celebrate positive feedback and assist in improving SEND School Transport.

*All responses will be anonymous, and it can be complete it on multiple occasions for more than one child / young person.*

Our SEND Home / School Transport Survey

Thank you in advance for all your support!

## Reaching Families Benefits Advice Service

We are delighted to let you know that Reaching Families Benefits Advice Service has restarted and is available for parent-carers of a child or young person with special educational needs and disabilities to access.

Thanks to major new investment we have been able to appoint a new benefits advisor and support worker to advise parent-carers on applications for Carers Allowance, DLA and PIP and undertake claim checks in advance of submitting. The team have also been joined by a new benefits service administrator.

Parents can self refer to the service and book appointments via our website here:

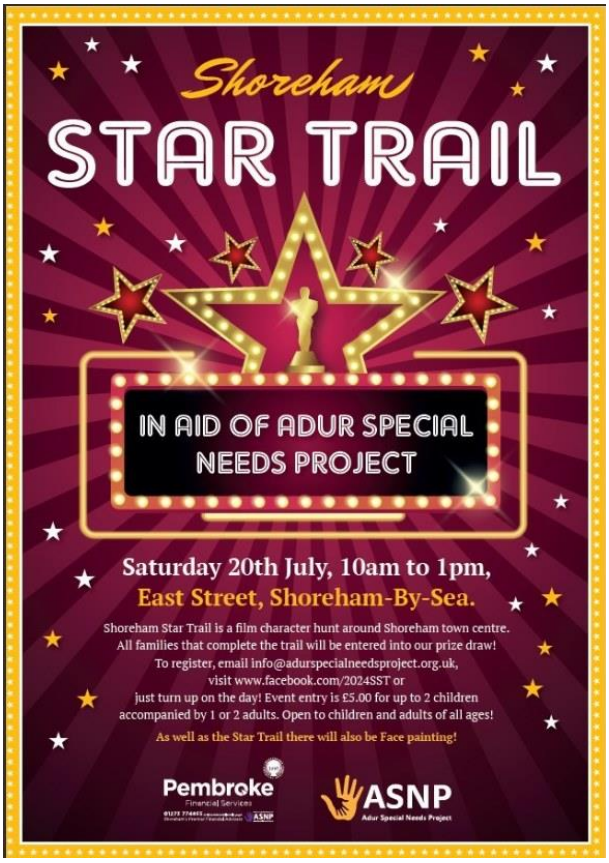
www.reachingfamilies.org.uk/benefits-advice.html

As always, we would advise parents to book their appointments well in advance of submission deadlines as we expect demand for the service to be very high. Statutory and voluntary agencies can also refer parent-carers to the service by emailing the team on benefits@reachingfamilies.org.uk

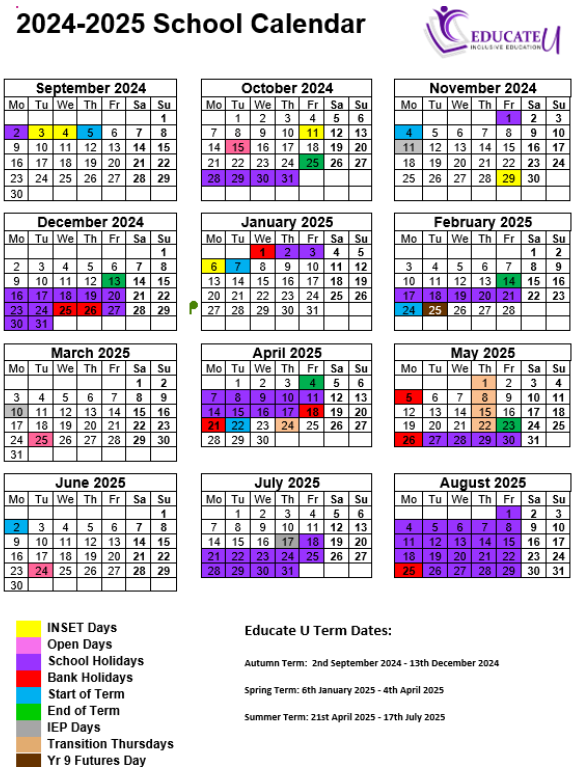
# Self-Harm Conference



## Event - Saturday 20th of July




## 2024-25 School Calendar



**Dates for the Diary:**

22 Aug: GCSE results day

03 Sep: INSET

04 Sep: INSET

05 Sep: Children and young people return back to school.