Autumn 2 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up the autumn term here at Educate U, I want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful experiences and achievements we've shared over the past half term. Yesterday at the school's Christmas fayre It was so fantastic to see our whole school community come together to share excitement and activities together. Santa did a wonderful job with the help of his trusted elf and it was so fantastic to see lots of our parents and carers come and look around Futures. Similarly, it was wonderful to see some of our ex-pupils return to us over the last few days and say how much they miss us and their time at Educate U and even want to join us for work experience in the future.

December has brought us all much joy and laughter, starting with our trip to the Worthing Panto, which was a magical experience for everyone involved and involved an impromptu cameo from our very own teacher Richard Burse. Our school Christmas lunch was a such a lovely occasion for our classes to come together as one school for festive cheer and delicious food. It was also so lovely to see so many children take part in Christmas Jumper Day.

In November, we began school assemblies for the first time ever as a school. For children who couldn't attend with others in the hall due to noise sensitivities and crowds, children were still part of the assembly and accessed via a live link in each classroom. The assembly

was supporting Anti-Bullying week. All the planned assemblies will be supporting our whole school events calendar.

Our Individual Education Plan (IEP) Day in November was incredibly positive. It was wonderful to see our dedicated teachers and supportive parents and carers come together to focus on the unique needs and goals of each child. Your involvement plays a crucial role in the progress and success of our students, and for that, we are truly grateful. Our Open Day also saw an incredible turnout, showcasing the vibrant and nurturing environment we cultivate at Educate U. It is with great pride that I announce we are heavily over-subscribed for the coming year! This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff and the wonderful reputation our school community has built.

Our young people have been working so hard on their ASDAN and curriculum projects. This half term has seen lots of our young people sit formal exams for the first time and we are all really proud of each and every student.

As we all look forward to a restful holiday, I want to extend my deepest thanks to all of you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year.

Sarah Paoletti

Headteacher

Staffing

As we come to the end of the Autumn term, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some staffing changes here at Educate U.

It's with a mix of sadness and gratitude that we say goodbye to Mike and Karen, who have both been invaluable members of our team. Mike leaves us to return to mainstream education and Karen is moving across to our Futures team. Their dedication and passion have greatly contributed to our school community, and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

At the same time, we're excited to welcome Kalee Knight, Millie Orsi, and Joanne Meredith to our Educate U family.

- Kalee Knight will join us as our KS4 teacher and has a background of KS3, KS4 and KS4 teaching, SEN and child protection.
- Millie will joined Seamus's team as a Teaching Assistant.
- Joanne will join Katy's team as a Teaching Assistant.

Each of them brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to their roles, and we're looking forward to seeing the positive impact they'll have on our pupils and staff.

In late January we also welcome back Paige from maternity leave and Paige will support in Kalee's class.



1 - Kalee



2 - Millie



3 - Joanne

Christmas



We end the week on such a high; Christmas fayre being one of the highlights the students look forward too each year, and oh was it worth the wait! The students have worked tirelessly to create an event which has been a huge success. From cookies and festive treats being baked by our staff and students, handmade wreaths, handmade gifts for all to buy ,handmade tree decorations by year 10 and 11, the hot chocolate cones made by a student in year 9, the amazing luxury handmade gifts created by our student at Futures and our Futures team. The hard work on the cold bitter days to create beautiful gifts from our Forest school. The choir led by Laura was an absolute delight and such a beautiful way to end our Christmas fayre. The smiles and laughter and excitement from winning on the raffle

or simply just enjoying themselves, around the school was so worth all the hard work by all. Father Christmas came to visit with his Elf and was such a delight to see the children and staff enjoy him being at Futures today to say hello to the children and to give them a gift.

Panto

This year pupils across the school enjoyed the festive panto of Robin Hood. It saw students of all ages up and dancing to the songs, Richard was even invited onto stage to take part in the show, well done Richard!!! It was such a special moment seeing all of their faces so immersed as snow fell from the ceiling.










MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR
PIN THE CARROT ON THE SNOWMAN
50p a go










Nigel Clarke
Janine Parlo
Darren Clewlow-Smith
Paul Giddings
Darryl Carrington
Katie Pritchard
Robin Hood
THE PANTOMIME

ASDAN

We are delighted to share that we have successfully passed registration and inspection by ASDAN, enabling us to offer the Certificate of Personal Effectiveness (COPE) as part of our curriculum.

ASDAN COPE is a nationally recognised qualification designed to help students develop valuable life skills and personal attributes. It focuses on areas such as problem-solving, teamwork, communication, and self-management, which are essential for both education and employment. Through engaging projects and activities, students can enhance their confidence, independence and ability to adapt to new challenges.

The programme is structured to celebrate every student's achievements, building on their strengths while helping them develop in areas where they may need support. It's an excellent way for students to gain practical skills while also working towards a qualification that is highly regarded by employers and further education providers.

We are proud to be an ASDAN-accredited centre and look forward to helping your child benefit from this enriching programme.

Our young people will only be offered this once they have completed the GOLD challenge at ASDAN for the Personal Development Programme (PDP) and will be beneficial for our older learners.

Accessible School Assemblies

This term, we proudly introduced accessible whole-school 10 minute assemblies, allowing all students the opportunity to fully participate in these important gatherings. Our first assembly took place this term, with a focus on Anti-bullying Week. Students had a choice of joining everyone in the school hall, or through video link in their classrooms. We look forward to continuing this each half term. The students who were able to attend coped brilliantly and maintained focus for the duration, and students who preferred to watch in their secure bases of their own classrooms, were all engaged.

SENDCO News



This half term has been exceptionally busy as we continue our efforts to meet the Inclusion Award criteria. Our aim is to showcase the school's commitment to addressing the diverse and individual needs of all our students. As part of this initiative, we are focusing on "healthy eating" as an area for improvement. We plan to enhance the nutritional quality of the food and snacks available to students, complementing our existing focus on physical activities. This improvement aligns with our broader health goals for the school community.

If any parents or carers would like to contribute or support this effort, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your constructive feedback is always valued and appreciated. Please email me at: georgina@educateu.co.uk with your suggestions or whether you would be happy to give parental feedback to the Inclusion Award assessor when we arrange for this to take place in the Spring Term.

BKSB

At Educate U, lots of our young people study for Functional Skills examinations. As such, we are pleased to now offer Basic Key Skills Builder (BKSB), a trusted platform designed to help students improve their core skills in English, mathematics, and digital literacy.

BKSB begins by assessing our young person's current abilities, providing an accurate and supportive starting point. From there, it generates a personalised learning plan, ensuring that each student focuses on areas where they can grow the most. This targeted approach not only builds skills but also boosts confidence, helping students feel more prepared for their academic and professional journeys.

This platform is used by educational providers and employers nationwide because it delivers proven results. BKSB's resources are interactive, flexible, and accessible, allowing students to learn at their own pace while receiving the support they need to thrive.

At Educate U, we are proud to offer BKSB as part of our commitment to nurturing your child's potential. Together, we can equip them with the essential skills they need to succeed, both now and in the future.

News from School Council



Wow what a year it has been for the student council team. As you're all aware we have been very busy from completing surveys, school lunches and fundraising. Looking back and reflecting it's amazing to see how beneficial the group is for the students and the school.

We also want to take a moment to say goodbye to Karen one of our student council staff members, it was the lovely Karen's idea to implement the group within the school and we are forever grateful to her. Furthermore, we are saying goodbye to another student within our group, and we wish her the best with her future, she always brought amazing ideas to the meetings with a massive smile on her face. She will be very missed.

Primary trip to Nymans Gardens

On Thursday this week, Primary enjoyed a trip to Nymans Gardens which was nothing short of magical! The children were thrilled to take part in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* trail, where they had the chance to step through wardrobes and discover scenes from the beloved story. Each new wardrobe led them to a different part of Narnia, sparking their imaginations. But the highlight of the day was when they re-enacted the epic battle between the White Witch and the humans. With swords and shields in hand, they brought the thrilling scene to life, creating memories they would cherish forever!






Please return your weapons to their place of rest
before you leave to complete your quest





Therapy House



Puppets

Therapy House offers a variety of mediums for our students to find safe communication, and this includes puppets. We invite our students, if they wish to use the puppets to help explore and communicate what could be on their mind or how they're feeling. Although playful, puppets can be a very powerful tool which help young people express themselves. As a puppet is an external object it creates a space where young people can feel more in control and less vulnerable. We are also proud to say that all our lovely puppets are PACE trained.

Trauma-Informed Intervention Update

We're excited to share that two key members of our team are currently training as EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing) therapists through an EMDR Europe-accredited program. This ensures the highest standards of training and practice in this evidence-based approach. EMDR offers a short but highly effective intervention for individuals processing difficult experiences. It's another step forward in our commitment to providing trauma-informed care and supporting the wellbeing of our school community. Stay tuned for more updates!

Support Pack for Parents: Helping Your Child Through Goodbyes, Endings, and Changes

We hope this pack will soon be available on our website, where we plan to add further resources to support parents and carers.

Why It's Important to Work Together:

When children face a goodbye, ending, or significant change, they often feel like they're navigating a "stormy sea." By having both home and school provide consistent support, we create a strong, safe harbour for children, helping them feel understood, supported, and secure. This teamwork helps them process their feelings more easily, knowing that both home and school are here for them, even in difficult times.

This pack is designed to support parents/carers in using the PACE approach (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity, Empathy) to help their child navigate these moments with understanding and connection.

"In supporting children through goodbyes, we give them the time and space to process change, honour their feelings, and find a path to acceptance. Through planning, reflection, and gentle guidance, we help them see that endings are a part of life, but they don't have to face them alone."

Christmas

As the end of term and the year approaches, we endeavour to provide our young people with a sense of consistency and support, especially for those who may find transitions challenging. Changes in routines, excitement around the holidays, and the thought of a long break can all create feelings of anxiety and uncertainty. For some of our students the predictability of school/therapy routine often helps with regulating emotions. We are mindful of the impact term endings, changes and holidays can have and part of our role is supporting the students through this.

The team therapy house wishes all our families a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Exams



Since the start of term, we have been busy ensuring that children and young people who are eligible, have been accessing Functional Skills mock exams in the actual exam room. Mocks give the children the chance to experience the whole exam process and in doing so takes some of the anxiety away before they sit their real exam. Our children and young people have then gone forward to sit their Functional Skills actual exams, we are hoping for some amazing successes for our children, we await outcomes from the exam board.

Earwig

Earwig is a tool that we use to display records of students' work and communicate these between school staff and parents. These records become evidence towards students' EHCP and IEP targets.

Earwig is live to parents, and you can log in to view your child's timeline of records. If you're struggling to log in, or don't know if you've been set up/would like to be, feel free to email our dedicated support: *earwig@educateu.co.uk* or arrange a time to come in to school to get in person support. Log in issues can usually be resolved within minutes.

We are working with the creators of Earwig currently to have this better serve us as a school to be able to populate and inform our IEPs and data for Annual Reviews, so watch this space!

Futures, Careers & Guidance



As part of our commitment to equipping students for their future, we are thrilled to announce several exciting opportunities. We are organising trips to higher and further education institutions, giving students a chance to explore both academic and vocational pathways. Preparations are also well underway for our Careers Day in February, which promises to be a fantastic event where students can connect with professionals and providers. We have confirmed numerous Higher Education and Further Education provisions to be available throughout the afternoon to answer questions about your child's future. In addition, we are arranging visits from local professionals, as well as talks from the Armed Forces and other front-line services, to inspire and inform our students.

We are also inviting parents and carers to get involved. Whether you'd like to share your career story or provide work experience opportunities, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Please reach out to Martha at martha@educateu.co.uk if you're interested in contributing. We have made links through West Sussex and the Careers & Enterprise Council to ensure that virtual work experience is available for all members of our school; more details about this provision will follow in the New Year.

The end of this term marks the end of my time at Educate U where it has been my privilege to not only teach but to have built the futures provision for this wonderful school. I leave futures and careers in the safe hands of Martha who I know will help bring our career provision to the next level. - Mike

Forest School







The approach of the Christmas holiday sees the end of a wonderfully busy and enriching autumn term at Forest School. It's been an enjoyable term of discovery, creativity, and connection to nature. For those learners scheduled for yoga and reflexology, this term offered moments of calm and mindfulness in the busy woodland days. The sessions have

been a beautiful way to focus on well-being, stretching both body and mind in harmony with nature.

A huge thank you to all the children who enthusiastically rolled up their sleeves to help construct our new food shelter. From collecting and carrying materials, to assisting with assembly, their efforts have made this project truly special. The shelter will enable the learners who enjoy helping prepare warming drinks and woodland lunches, to continue in building their practical life skills throughout the winter.

The children have also enjoyed crafting beautiful Christmas items, which were available to purchase at our Christmas fayre. Their creativity has truly shone through in these handmade treasures.

Lastly but never least, unstructured play in the woodland has been at the heart of our sessions, developing imagination and problem-solving skills from our children and young people. From tool work projects to spontaneous bursts of creativity, the children have amazed us with their innovative ideas and growing confidence.

Thank you for your continued support of Forest School. Watching your children grow, explore, and thrive in this natural environment has been a privilege. We wish you all a restful, joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

Warm wishes,

The Forest School Team

Important: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

At school, we value your feedback as parents and carers as you play a vital role in shaping the success and wellbeing of your children. Your insights, experiences, and perspectives are invaluable to us as we continually strive to provide the best possible educational experience.

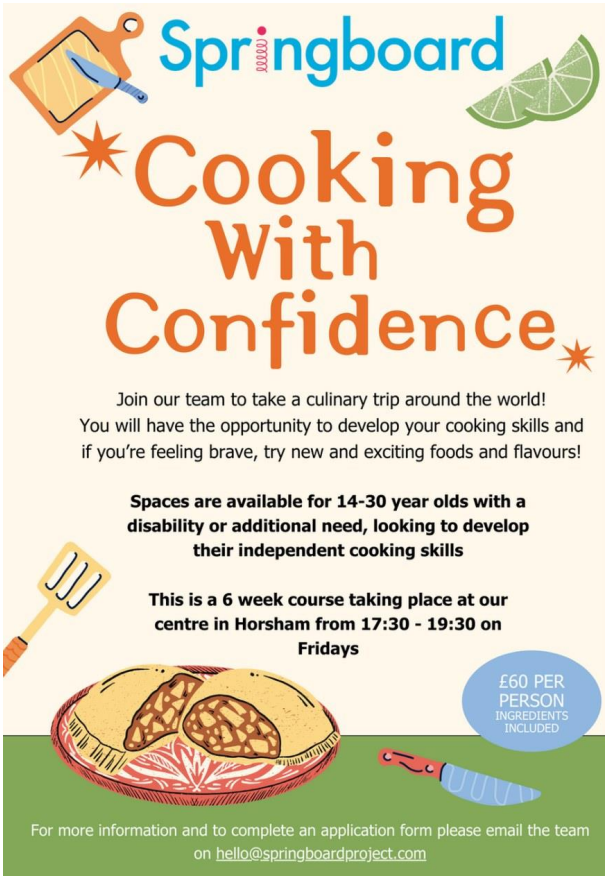
If we are aware of any issues, we have an opportunity to resolve.

This is why we actively seek ***parent and carer voice*** – your feedback helps us to understand what we're doing well and where we can make improvements. By sharing your thoughts, you contribute to shaping our approach, ensuring that we meet the needs of every student in a way that reflects the values and priorities of our school community.

I encourage you to share your feedback with us by following this link: https://forms.office.com/e/ta20RwRcg4 Your opinions will help us refine and enhance the support and opportunities we offer, ensuring that your child receives the best possible care and guidance at Educate U.

Thank you for your on-going support.

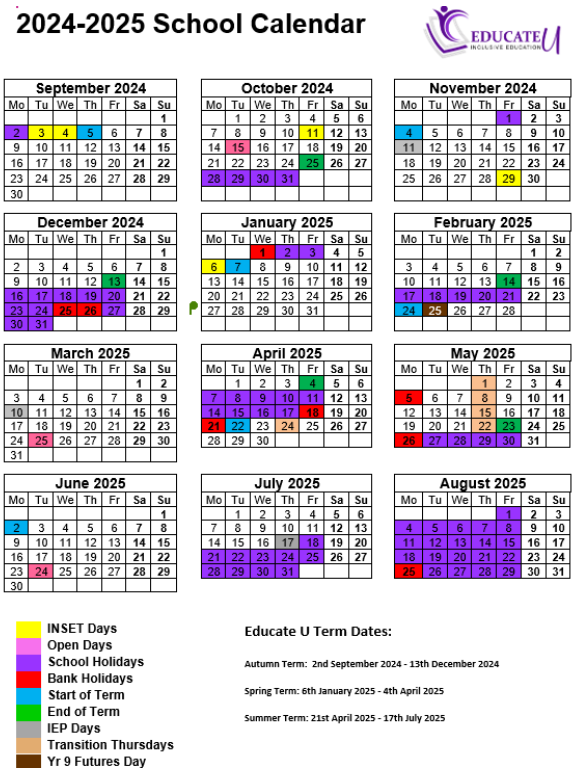
Local Events this Half Term







2024-25 School Calendar



Dates for the Diary:

December 13th - End of Term

December 14th - January 3rd - Christmas Break

January 6th - Inset Day - No school for students

January 7th - First day back after holidays

July 2nd - 4th - Lodge Hill booked for Primary Children

May 15th - 16th - Lodge Hill booked for the remaining secondary classes who've yet to attend