Spring 1 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

As we reach the end of this half term, it has been wonderful to see our students fully engaged in their learning. Our Primary pupils have been immersed in their Under the Sea theme, exploring exciting topics through creative and hands-on activities. Meanwhile, Secondary students have been focusing on Modern Britain, deepening their understanding of the world around them.

Alongside their classroom learning, students have taken part in a range of whole-school events, including World Religion Day, RNLI Day, Futures events and Children's Mental Health Week. These events have provided valuable opportunities to broaden their knowledge, develop key life skills, and reflect on important global and personal issues.

A significant development this term has been our expansion into Liverpool Gardens, a new space that will house our OT Assistant, SALT Assistant, and, from next term, our SENDCO. Additionally, our Exams Officer and exams room will move here, providing a more spacious and supportive environment for students sitting their exams.

Our Year 9 Futures Afternoon was another highlight, with students exploring potential career pathways and thinking about their aspirations for the future. It was fantastic to see them engaging with the opportunities ahead.

We were also delighted to receive an impressive 5-star rating in our unannounced food hygiene inspection—a well-deserved recognition of the high standards maintained by our entire team.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for your continued support this term. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to another exciting half term ahead.

Staffing

Goodbye

We are sad to share that Teacher Katy Sharpe has made the difficult decision to resign from her position to pursue another opportunity. Katy has been an invaluable member of our team, and her dedication to nurturing our young people has been greatly appreciated. We thank her for all her hard work and commitment and wish her the very best for the future.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Carl, our new Premises Manager, who will be overseeing the maintenance and development of our facilities.

To further enhance support in the classroom, we have increased HLTA capacity with three newly promoted roles for HLTA trainees Katie Sharp, Oliver Reynolds, and Sam Godden. This will strengthen our provision and ensure more support for children and young people.

Hannah Larbey who is very well-known to the class is taking over as Class Tutor. In her new position, Hannah will be taking on additional responsibilities to support the teaching and learning of our students. The progress of all the students will be overseen by our Deputy Headteacher Emma Jenkinson. To minimise disruption to the class, this will be at least until May half term (transition).

Whole School Events

World Religion Day

To mark World Religion Day, Educate U focused on Christianity, exploring its beliefs, traditions, and values. Students took part in discussions and activities to deepen their understanding of the faith and its influence on cultures and communities around the world. This was a valuable opportunity to promote respect, knowledge, and open-mindedness towards different religious perspectives.

Upcoming Events/Trips

Bikeability

We're excited to announce that Bikeability will take place next term from March 17th to 21st! Sessions will run on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday of that week at various times throughout the day.

A friendly reminder that bikes and helmets will be provided, so no need to bring your own.

A big thank you to all the parents who have returned their child's consent forms—we appreciate your support in making this program a success!

SEALIFE Brighton

On March 27th, the Primary students are looking forward to visiting the Sea Life Centre in Brighton to end their topic of "Under The Sea"!

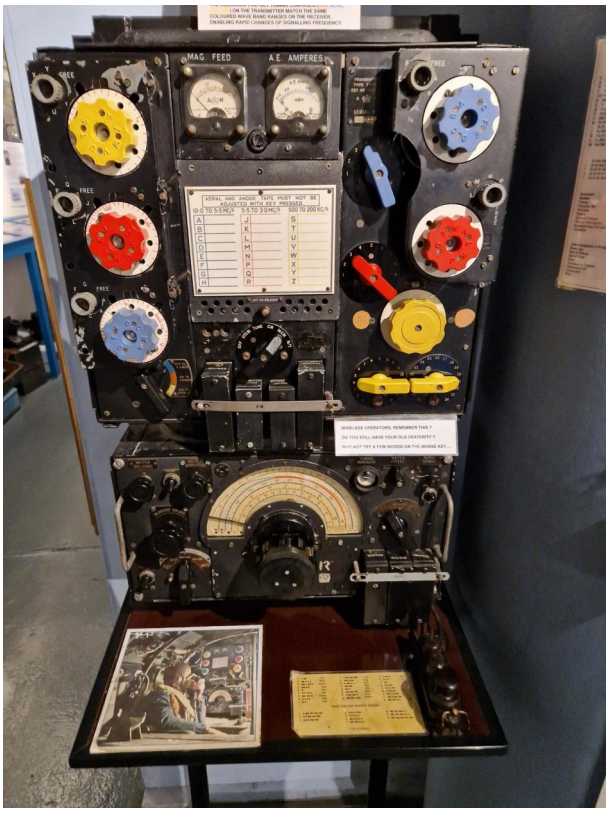
Tangmere Museum

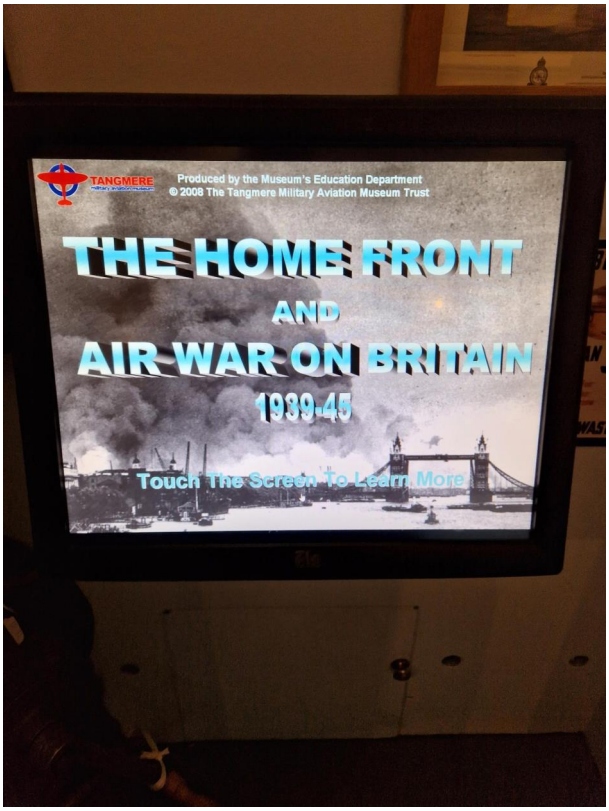
As part of their topic "The History of Britain", some of our KS3 and KS4 students visited Tangmere Museum in Chichester to deepen their knowledge and understanding of life during the war. The students learnt more about The Battle of Britain, Morse code, life on the home front and the role women played in the war efforts. They thoroughly enjoyed looking at the different planes and some students had a go at flying the simulators to feel what it would have been like to be a pilot! It was a lovely opportunity for them to see first hand artifacts and hear from experts about the different planes and it was great to see the students so engaged with the activities. The rest of the KS3 and KS4 students who have yet to go will be going on February 27th.


34067
TANGMERE
BATTLE OF BRITAIN CLASS


KEEP AWAY
UNEXPLODED BOMB




MAG. FEED
A.E. AMPERES
FREE
FREE
FREE


TANGMERE
Produced by the Museum's Education Department
© 2008 The Tangmere Military Aviation Museum Trust
THE HOME FRONT
AND
AIR WAR ON BRITAIN
1939-45
Touch The Screen To Learn More




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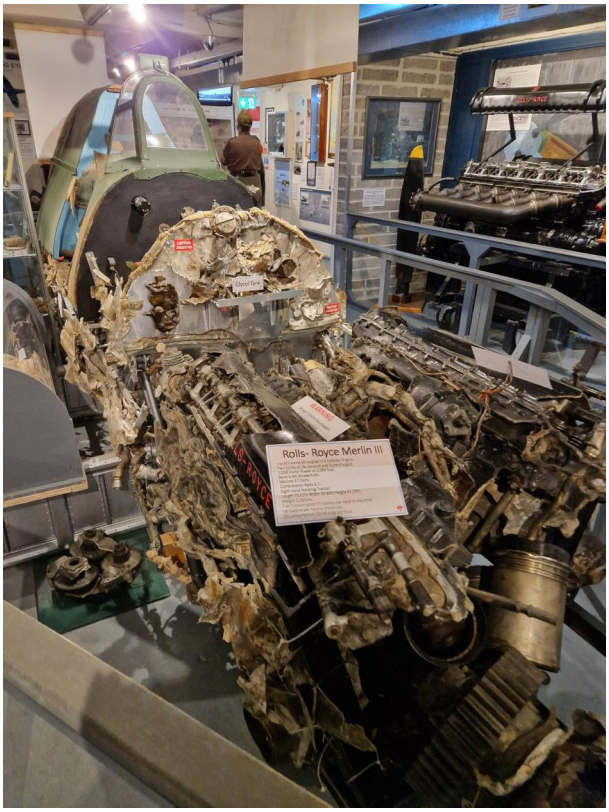












Liverpool Gardens

Educate U is pleased to announce that we have acquired the keys to Liverpool Gardens, Worthing. This new space will serve as the base for our OT Assistant and SALT Assistant, with our SENCO also relocating here next term. Additionally, our exams room and Exams Officer will move to Liverpool Gardens, providing a larger and more suitable environment for multiple students to sit their exams comfortably. Currently, there are minor renovations planned which we hope to complete over the next half term. This move marks an exciting step forward in enhancing our support services and exam provision.

Intervention Staff Spotlight: ELSA

We can’t believe how quickly this half term has flown by! It’s been a fantastic few weeks, full of positivity, progress, and plenty of smiles. Kinga and Hannah have really enjoyed working with our wonderful pupils, helping them develop their emotional well-being and confidence. As ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants), we provide a safe and supportive space for children to explore their feelings, manage emotions, and build important life skills like resilience, self-esteem, and social skills. We run sessions twice a week, using fun and creative activities such as storytelling, role-play, mindfulness, and art to help children express themselves. This term, we’ve focused on building self-confidence, managing worries, and developing friendships. It’s been incredible to see how much the children have grown, learning to understand and regulate their emotions in positive ways. Watching them gain confidence and develop new skills is truly the most rewarding part of our job.

We're looking forward to seeing you after half-term.

News from School Council





We are excited to welcome Ollie to our Student Council team! We're thrilled to have him on board, as he brings a wealth of great ideas and a positive energy to the group. Ollie has already made an impact with his love for creating PowerPoint presentations, which the students absolutely loved! We look forward to seeing all the great things Ollie will help us accomplish this year. Welcome, Ollie!

Children's Mental Health Week was another wonderful opportunity for our students to come together as one. One of the activities the children particularly enjoyed was writing positive things about themselves or something they wanted to "grow" at, and then planting these thoughts to watch them flourish! It was a beautiful way to encourage self-reflection and growth. The Student Council also had a great time decorating our new display board, tying it into the theme of the movie *Inside Out*, which helped to further emphasise the importance of understanding and embracing our emotions. It was a week filled with positivity and creativity!

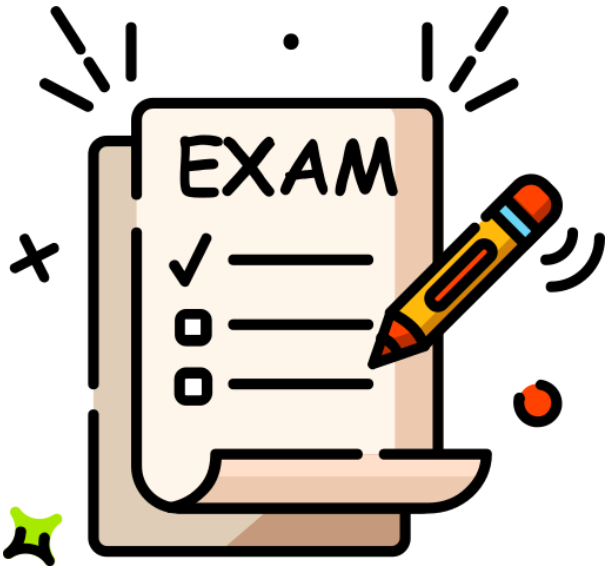
D&D Club



1 - One our students made a beautiful spread for our meeting as part of their ASDAN work

Dungeons & Dragons Club (D&D) is a weekly gathering where students come together to socialise, collaborate, and develop valuable life skills in a relaxed and enjoyable environment. Through exciting gameplay, they are learning to listen attentively, take turns, and communicate effectively with their peers—all while building confidence. The students eagerly look forward to their session, bringing energy and enthusiasm to the table. It's wonderful to see them laughing, sharing ideas, and enjoying each other's company and importantly developing their social skills.

Exams



This half-term has been a busy one for our students, with both English and Maths exams taking place, including both official and mock exams. It has been inspiring to see students approaching these challenges with determination and resilience. Exams provide an important opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge, track their progress, and prepare for future success. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and commitment to learning. Well done to all!

Futures



This term, within our Futures work, we are providing students with a variety of exciting opportunities to explore their future pathways. The Year 9 Futures event was an incredibly informative and inspiring for both students in which families learnt about the GCSE and Functional Skills pathways available to students as they enter Year 10 and Year 11.

The upcoming Post-16 ***Careers Fair on Tuesday 25th February 3.10-4.30 in the Hall*** will be a fantastic chance for Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students to explore different level 1 and level 2 courses, apprenticeships, and vocational options, helping students to plan their careers early on.

The PSHE/Futures visit from the West Sussex Fire Service sounds was both fun and educational, teaching students' important safety skills in a hands-on way, including identifying the dangers in a messy bedroom activity and life as Fire service officer. We are also looking forward to an upcoming visit from PC Marcus Evans who will be talking about having a career in the police force after half term.

Speaker	Time
Martha- Introduction	**3.10-3.15**
Zoe-Chichester Colleges Group, including Northbrook, Worthing and Brinsbury	**3.15- 3.25**
Rebecca- Brighton Met	**3.30-3.40**
Nicola M- Educate U Futures	**3.45-3.55**
Beki- Sand project, Worthing	**4.00-4.10**
Janet- Working Participation- NHS trust	**4.15-4.25**
Opportunity for 1:1 conversations	**4.25-4.30**

Forest School









As we reach the end of this half-term at Forest School, we are excited to share all the wonderful experiences and learning adventures your children have enjoyed.

Alongside our usual fun and therapy in the forest, this half-term has been filled with new challenges and exciting discoveries. The children have had the opportunity to explore Morse code, learning how to send and decode messages and have also developed their navigation skills through compass work and map reading, gaining confidence in finding their way through nature.

Our creative activities have included working with clay and Plaster of Paris, allowing the children to express their artistic side while experimenting with different textures and natural materials. Their imaginative creations have been fantastic to see. They have also contributed to the success of the sessions, through tasks such as moving and splitting wood and helping to prepare lunch.

Additionally, the children have taken part in an outdoor first aid activity, where they learned essential skills, such as treating minor injuries, understanding the importance of staying calm in emergencies, and working together to help others in need.

To conclude this action-packed half-term, we will be taking on an orienteering adventure through the woodland. This will be a great opportunity for the children to put their newly acquired navigation skills into practice while enjoying teamwork and adventure.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to more exciting Forest School sessions in the next half-term!

Safeguarding

Educate U work closely with Kayleigh who is a Family Support Worker from the Early Help Dedicated Schools team connected to our school. Kayleigh has been into school and completed training for our staff team as well as working closely with our DSL team in school.

Kayleigh can also support families by:

- Working collaboratively to help families early and connect them with the right support at the right time
- Provide information, advice and guidance and crisis support
- Information about local services, support and events for children and young people aged 0-25 years with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND)
- Parenting support programmes, either 1-1, in a group

Help support schools as a lead professional, with:

- Short intervention with children, young people and parent/carers
- Signposting and linking to other local partners providing support
- Working alongside wider educational colleague

SENDCO NEWS



For this half term, I firstly just wanted to give a brief overview of how the Annual Review process works for the new parents who have joined us this year.

For new students, Annual Reviews should be held in the first 3 months on admission, but as some students start part-time, SENAT are quite flexible with this. They understand that the class team need to be able to really know the student before conducting an Annual Review. For all the other Annual Reviews, they will be held yearly.

Stages:

1. The SENCo will contact parent/carer about a month before the review to set a day and time and discussions about who else should be invited such as social workers, medical experts, Educational Psychologist etc.

2. An email is sent to the parent/carer with a confirmed date/time and a map showing the location of the review, if not at the main school site. Parental views paperwork is either emailed or handed (on request) to the parent/carer to bring to the review.
3. The draft Annual Review paperwork is emailed to the parent/carer 2 weeks before the review.
4. Student feedback is gained, usually with support from the class team.
5. On the review day the SENCo goes through the paperwork and targets and adds parental views, students' views and any other information from the discussion in the meeting. The class teacher always attends to give an overview of progress. Targets for the following year are discussed and approved by parents/carers.
6. The SENCo writes up the notes and emails the parent/carer to ensure nothing has been missed.
7. The SENCo has to submit to SENAT within 2 weeks of the meeting along with any updated diagnosis, medical forms or other relevant paperwork.
8. Occasionally the paperwork can trigger an update to the EHCP (normally if there is a significant update such as new diagnosis) but normally updates only occur at transitions from primary to secondary or secondary to college.

It is vital that parents/carers attend the review either in person or on a Teams call so a full conversation about progress can be discussed.

Others news:

Thank you to the parents who answered the questionnaire on healthier eating, we were delighted by the positive response.

Just to give you an update, we have had meetings with an outside company looking to provide healthier options for our students. We are also working closely with the class teams to ensure the options available for students are at the healthier end of the food supply as we have a duty of care to ensure we promote healthy living. The discussions have resulted in swapping high sugar/fat/salt foods such as biscuits and crisps for healthier alternatives.

This will be monitored, and feedback will be provided to parents. Obviously, if you still want to provide your child with their normal lunch/snack then we will support this, but we would welcome healthier choices to support what we are trying to do around school. The link below gives some suggestions you may want to look at:

Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS

I am hoping to arrange a meeting for parents to learn more about healthier eating and the positive impact this can have at school and at home and will email once this has been arranged.

Finally, we are nearly ready to invite the Inclusion Award Inspector to come to the school, to see the work that we do to promote inclusion. The Inspector may want to make contact with parents/carers, to get their opinion on how we are doing, and I will email to request volunteers once we have a confirmed date.

Attendance

Our families are reminded that the Department for Education (DfE) states that parents do not have an automatic right to take their child out of school for holidays during term time and such absences can only be authorised under 'exceptional circumstances.'

The following outlines our policy regarding term-time leave:

Exceptional Circumstances: The Headteacher will review each request for leave of absence on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the student's current attendance level, specific facts, and the context of the request. Exceptional circumstances may include:

- Unforeseen family emergencies.
- Religious observance, where the day is exclusively set apart by the religious body to which the student's family belongs.
- Occupational purposes for Traveller students, such as Roma, Gypsy, and Circus families, where travel is essential and agreed upon with the school.
- Other specific reasons linked to the Special Educational Needs (SEN) of the student, in agreement with the Headteacher, parents, local authority, or social worker.
- To obtain Absence Request Form
- To complete and submit the form in advance at least 2 weeks before the period of absence

If parents/carers decide to take a holiday without authorisation, the child's absence(s) will be marked as unauthorised.

For further details, please see Educate U - Attendance

Food Hygiene Rating



On 21st January we had an unannounced food hygiene standards inspection. After a very thorough inspection you will be pleased to know Educate U has an official Food Hygiene Rating of…5!

The inspector loved the well-ordered folder of documentation that we have compiled and a huge thank you to all the teams for following the cleaning, food preparation and food storage processes so that we can provide food for our children and young people and for the entire team.

PE Lessons: A Fantastic Start to the New Year with Fitness & Circuits



This term, our PE lessons have been a success, thanks to the wonderful effort and enthusiasm from both students and staff as we have started on the exciting new area of learning—'Fitness & Circuits.' These sessions have seen everyone fully engaged, not only learning new skills but also discovering more about themselves personally, emotionally, morally, and socially.

The lessons are designed with inclusivity at their heart, focusing on health, fitness, well-being, and, most importantly, fun. Students have embraced the challenges each week demonstrating determination and positivity, showing exactly what can be achieved through adaptive learning strategies. It's been pleasing to see everyone "giving it a go" and thriving in this active, supportive environment.

Well done to all involved.

Therapy House

First Term Back

The Therapy House team are always excited to welcome our students back at the start of any new term. The January return can feel tiring after the Christmas period and it's important that we, as therapists, continue to offer a consistent, safe and accessible space for our young people. It was lovely to see them again.

Workshops

We are very fortunate to have in our therapy team a qualified practitioner to facilitate PACE led Parent/Child Workshops. If anyone is interesting in finding out more around this please email kym@educateu.co.uk

Puppets

As mentioned in the last newsletter Therapy House has become home to some puppets. Sometimes, children need to know they are being held in mind, and puppets can serve as a powerful bridge into relationships. For some of our students , puppets have provided a way to stay connected between their therapy sessions. Recently, they invited the puppets for a sleepover and a day trip to the beach—creating a beautiful example of how playful connection can support emotional security and continuity in their therapeutic journey.



They had great fun at the sleepover but didn't get much sleep!!



The next day they went swimming; they enjoyed splashing about and using their rubber rings.

Reflexology

Here at Educate U, one of the children's interventions they really engage in is Reflexology!

Reflexology is a holistic therapy that focuses on removing blockages by applying pressure to specific reflex points on the feet (and sometimes hands). This helps unblock the flow of energy, bringing the mind, body and spirit back into a state of equilibrium. It's a powerful tool for regulation and activating the vagus nerve, with many other benefits besides, including stress relief, pain management, improved mood and better digestion.

At first, some children can be a little hesitant to try Reflexology. They worry it might tickle, or they feel self-conscious about their feet, or have other concerns. But Vicki, our Children's Reflexologist (and Yoga Teacher), is excellent at easing those worries. After their first session, pretty much all of the children come back excited to join again and when their block of sessions come to an end, they can't wait to be added to the next block.

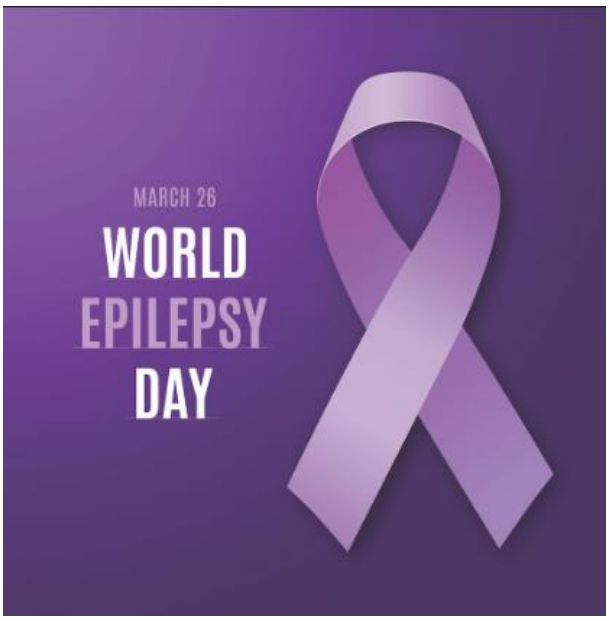
Vicki offers Reflexology sessions at both Therapy House and Forest School, depending on the child's preference. Reflexology in the forest adds an extra layer of healing, as children are immersed in nature, surrounded by birdsong, rustling leaves and the warmth of the sun. This natural setting enhances the grounding and calming effects of the therapy. For colder days, children are kept nice and cosy with blankets, Oodies, and hot chocolate, making it a truly comforting experience!







Purple Day: International Day for Epilepsy



What is Purple Day?

Purple Day is a globally recognised event dedicated to epilepsy awareness, held annually on 26th March. It was established in 2008 by an eight-year-old Canadian girl, Cassidy Megan, who wanted to spread awareness about epilepsy and remind those affected that they are not alone.

Cassidy chose purple as the official colour because lavender is widely recognised as the flower associated with epilepsy.

Since its inception, Purple Day has grown into one of the most significant awareness and fundraising events in the epilepsy community. Each year, thousands of incredible people come together to support and make a difference for those living with epilepsy.

Educate U has several students, and members of our wider community, with Epilepsy and we want to support raising awareness. Children and our staff are encouraged to wear clothing or accessories that are purple on 26th March to support. We will provide activities for children to do on the day to support in raising awareness too.

Important: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

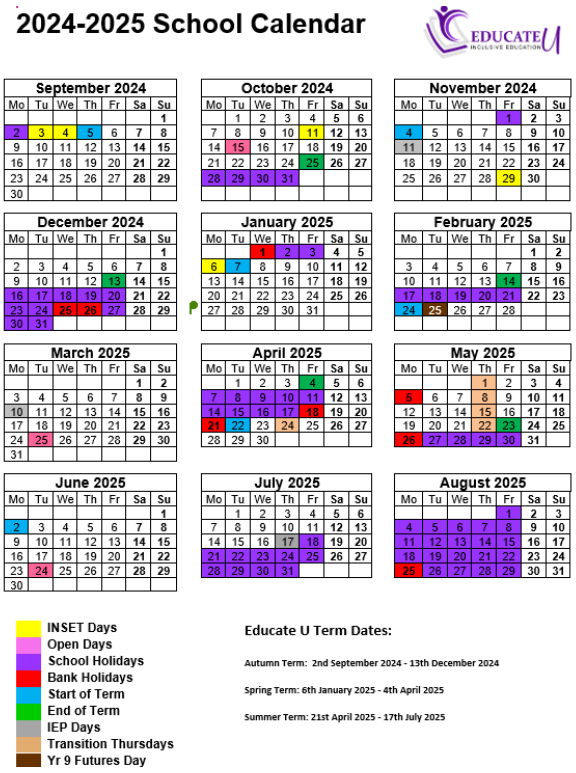
At Educate U, we truly value the feedback and insights of our parents and carers. We invite you to share your thoughts with us by completing our Microsoft form:

https://forms.office.com/e/5dgcf3wMQY

Your input plays a crucial role in helping us improve the learning environment and overall experience for your child. By filling in the form, you'll directly influence school policies,

highlight areas for improvement, and celebrate what's working well. This is a valuable opportunity to ensure we're meeting the needs of both you and your child. We greatly appreciate your time and feedback and look forward to hearing from you!

2024-25 School Calendar



Dates for the Diary:

February 25th - Careers Fair

March 10th - IEP Day

March 25th - Open School Day (half day for students) finish time at 12:30pm

May 15th - 16th - Lodge Hill booked for Martha's and Hannah's class

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