Spring 2 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we wrap up this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on what has been a really lovely term with lots to celebrate.

One of the highlights for us was our recent Ofsted Inspection. The inspection team loved talking to our students and seeing their work. While these evaluations can be a nerve-wracking experience, our school really shone through, with inspectors acknowledging happy children and praising our personal development offer. We await the final report. I want to wholeheartedly say thank you to our amazing team, to all of the children who proudly spoke about their learning and their school, and to you, our families, for your support with phone calls and letters. It really did mean so much.

Aside from the big 'O', this term has been filled with enriching experiences for our children. Our trip to the Sealife Centre was a delightful for the children and staff and was filled with wide-eyed wonder (and a few damp sleeves from the rock pool area). We have celebrated World Book Day with staff and children promoting their love of reading with much loved books characters roaming our corridors, celebrating the joy of reading. As a school community, we also came together for Purple Day 2025 which raises awareness for epilepsy and a whole school assembly led by children promoting epilepsy awareness.

Our older children and young people were treated to an array of courses and offers for their futures at Educate U's first Careers Fair which saw organisations such as Educate U Futures, Chichester College Group (CCG), NHS, and Sand Project attend. This opens up exciting future pathways for our students.

Our children were kept active and achieving this term too, with Forest School and Bikeability developing crucial learning skills outdoors. Wishing your family a lovely, restful Eastertime. We look forward to seeing your child back in school on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

Warm wishes,

Sarah Paoletti

Staffing

Goodbye

We are sad to share that ***Seamus Doherty*** has made the difficult decision to resign from his position to pursue another opportunity. Seamus' dedication to supporting our young people has been greatly appreciated as has his work with ASDAN. We wish him the very best for the future.

Equally sad are we that we bid farewell to ***Richard Burse*****.** Richard leaves us to dedicate his skill-set to a similar setting to ours. Richard has led Maths very well and children have made great Maths progress across the school as a result. We know he'll be a huge success and wish him well!

Welcome

We welcome ***Caroline Watts***, a very experienced teacher of children with SEN and in particular with experience of teaching children and young people with social, emotional and mental health needs. We also welcome ***Ellie Gold***, a Maths and History specialist who is also an experienced teacher of children with SEN. She joins us from another specialist setting and has a keen interest in helping children with autism excel. Welcome to ***Freddie*** who is joining us as a Teaching Assistant, Freddie brings valuable personal experience with children with SEN that makes him a fantastic addition to our community.
*****ALICE???*****



1 - Caroline



2 - Ellie



3 - Freddie

Transitions

We all know that change can be tough, especially for our children and young people, manty of whom struggle with change. The shift from one school year to the next and the changes of staff and peers that come with this increase anxiety in our students. For many of our children, especially those with neurodiverse conditions and anxiety disorders, the uncertainty that comes with change can be even more overwhelming. Transitioning to a new school year shouldn't feel like jumping into the deep end, it should be a gradual and supportive journey

That is why we support this with Transition Thursdays. By now all parents and students have been informed about new classes and teachers. Starting on Thursday, 24th April 2025, and continuing every Thursday until 22nd May 2025, all students will move into their new classes for the day. On these Transition Thursdays the teachers and staff will run focused activities designed to settle children and young people and ensure they feel safe in their new classrooms and with new teams or peers. Activities include relationship building, nurture, play (team building with peers and staff), developing friendships, arts and crafts, practical learning. By breaking down the transition into smaller, manageable steps, we aim to ease the anxieties and help our children feel more confident as they move forward. From 2nd June 2025 all children will be in their new classes.

Whole School Events: World Book Day

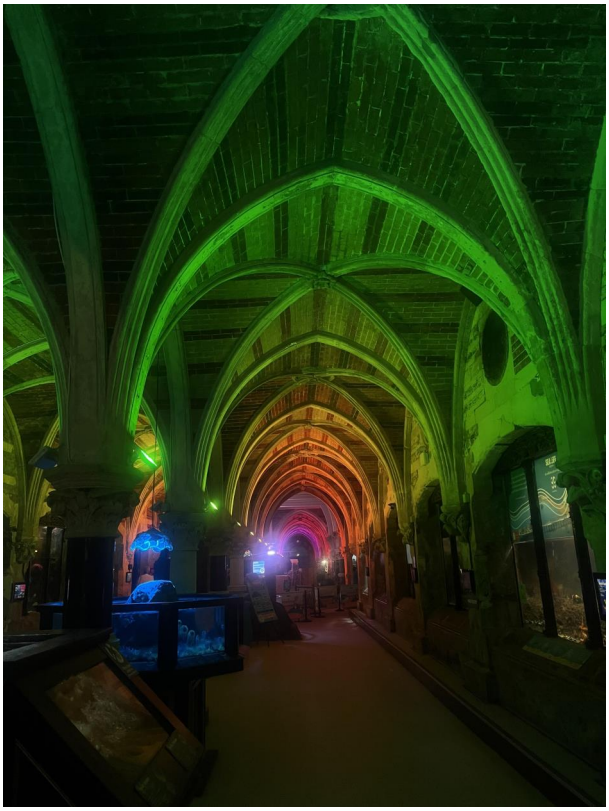


World Book Day was a great success here at Educate U. It was fantastic to see both staff and students embracing the occasion by dressing up as their favorite characters from beloved books.Each student received a book token—some chose to take theirs home, while others made use of the opportunity during their DEAR session to visit the shop and select a new book.

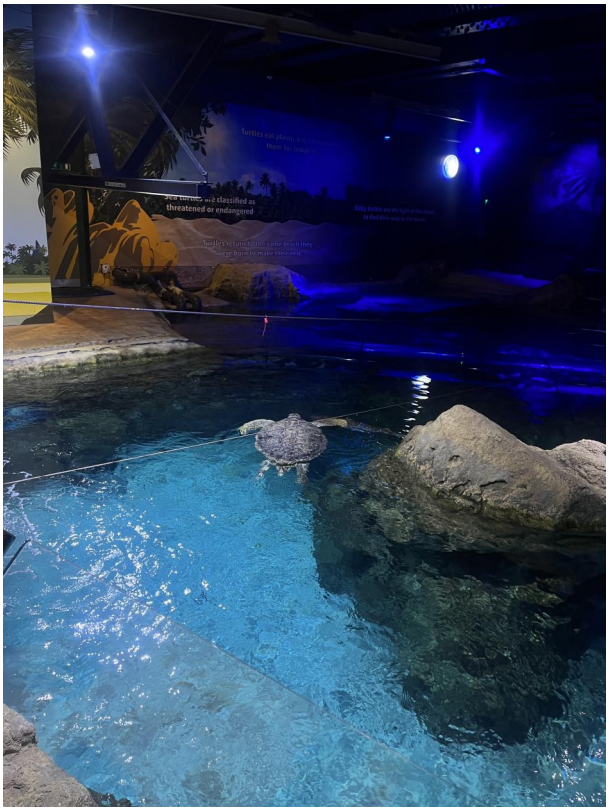
Trips

SEALIFE Brighton

To end our topic 'Under The Sea', Primary enjoyed a visit to the Sea Life Centre in Brighton where the students were able to observe some of their favourite sea animals and learn more about them. The students listened to a talk about how animals adapt to live in their environment and had the opportunity to create their own mythical fish which they loved! Everyone had a great day and it was lovely seeing the children so enthusiastic about their learning.




Welcome to the Jungle
SEA LIFE
Brighton



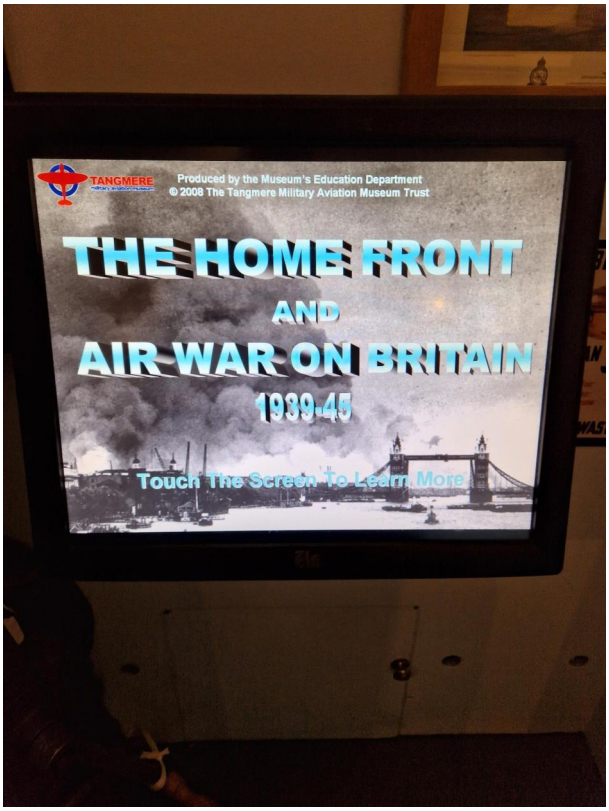


Tangmere Museum Secondary were delighted to visit Tangmere Military Aviation Museum as part of their Modern Britain topic work. The museum staff were amazing in how they kept our children engaged and occupied throughout the tour. Children learnt how farm fields transformed over time into a bustling aerodrome from which the famous Battle of Britain

was launched in WW2. Now mostly returned to fields, the area is now renown as a heritage site. Children also got to test out the simulators and judging by the feedback we may have some budding pilots in the future!









Upcoming Lodgehill trip for Secondary! On May 15th-16th we are running a residential trip for the secondary classes which did not attend the previous one (Martha's and Hannah's classes). This means during this academic year every child in secondary has been offered the chance of a residential trip. Whilst we appreciate some children may not be able to attend,

there will be other opportunities in the future. These trips really do bring out the best in the children where they build self-confidence and social skills in a fun, yet challenging environment. They also get to stay up late too! We look forward to sharing what went on in the next newsletter.

Bikeability Success – A Week of Confidence, Courage and Connection!



I just wanted to take a moment to celebrate what was another absolutely brilliant Bikeability week at Educate U. During the week commencing 17th March, 20 of our students took part in the course—and what an incredible journey they all went on.

From those learning to ride for the very first time (all of whom achieved their Level 1 certificates by the end of the four days!), to our more confident cyclists who proudly earned their Level 2, every student gave it their all. A special mention has to go to one student who went even further and achieved the status of Independent Rider at Level 2 which is a tremendous accomplishment.

What made this week so special wasn't just the certificates or skills (although well earnt!), it was the energy, teamwork and confidence that developed along the way. Students supported one another, worked with peers they don't usually interact with, and showed maturity in managing risk safely and responsibly. There was such a buzz of positivity

throughout the week, it was lovely to see the boost in self-esteem and wellbeing that came from pushing boundaries and achieving personal goals.

A huge thank you to the Bikeability trainers for their patience, encouragement and expert guidance, and of course to our incredible EducateU staff for their continued support, understanding, and care. You all helped make this week such a success for our learners.

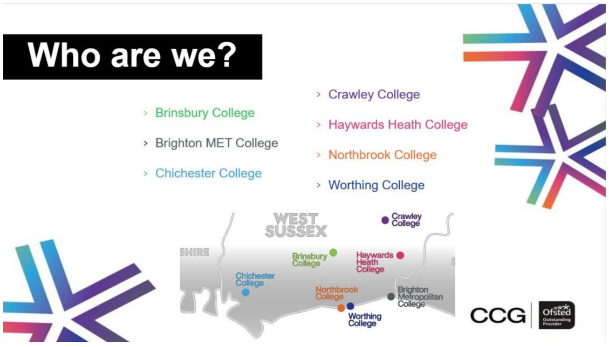
Well done to everyone involved, I'm already looking forward to next year!

News from School Council



4 - This half-term has been a bit quieter for the Student Council, as Friday PSHE lessons have limited their usual activities. However, the team had a significant opportunity to meet with Ofsted, where they proudly shared the incredible initiatives and positive changes they have helped implement within the school. The feedback from Ofsted was fantastic, recognizing the hard work and dedication of our student council members.

Futures



It has been a busy and exciting term for Careers at Educate U!

In February, we hosted our first-ever Educate U Careers Fair, welcoming representatives from five local colleges, including Worthing, Northbrook, and Brighton Met. They provided valuable insights into post-16 options, covering a wide range of courses—from equine studies to fashion and music. The event was highly informative and well-attended by many of our Year 8, 9, 10, and 11 students and their families.

As part of our careers curriculum, we were also pleased to welcome members of the Fire Service and Police Force into school this term. They delivered engaging presentations about their daily roles and career pathways within their services. Our students made us proud by

asking thoughtful and insightful questions. Additionally, we continue to support our older pupils with careers conversations, helping them explore future opportunities and plan their next steps. I am also looking forward to continuing one-to-one careers conversations with our older students, providing them with guidance and support as they make important decisions about their futures.

Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to launch the Springpod virtual work experience platform. This opportunity will allow Year 10 and 11 students to explore the world of work through interactive modules on CV writing, commuting, and identifying their key skills.

Forest School








MARKERS





We'd like to take a moment to reflect on another half-term filled with creativity, teamwork, and outdoor exploration.

This term, the children have continued to hone their woodworking skills, safely using tools to create their very own masterpieces. It has been amazing to watch their confidence grow as they worked with natural materials to bring their ideas to life.

As spring is finally upon us, we have been making seed bombs and planting flowers to grow at school. We can't wait to see their plants flourish in the coming weeks and hope some of them will continue their green-fingered adventures at home!

As always, the craft area has been enjoyed by the learners. From weaving willow crowns, to decorating their own plant pots, the learners have enjoyed using their creativity and fine motor skills to make some beautiful items.

Our forest school provision provides the perfect environment for therapeutic yoga and reflexology sessions in-line with the individual needs of our pupils, as well as team building exercises, such as scavenger hunts and Protect the Egg. These activities reinforce the importance of collaboration, and help develop communication skills and resilience along the way. But most importantly, they have brought plenty of laughter and fun.

To round off the term, we ended with an Easter egg hunt. It was a joyous way to celebrate the end of term, and we hope they enjoyed their well-earned treats! We want to thank you for your continued support of our Forest School program. We look forward to another term of adventure, discovery, and learning in the great outdoors.

Wishing you all a wonderful and restful holiday!

Safeguarding

SENDCO NEWS



Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all those who have actively contributed to the Annual Reviews so far. It has been a pleasure meeting with you, discussing the progress of our young people, and exploring ways to support them in the upcoming academic year. I look forward to continuing these valuable conversations during the summer term and will be in touch with those scheduled for upcoming meetings shortly.

I am also pleased to share that our healthier eating initiative is progressing exceptionally well. It is encouraging to see shopping lists now featuring natural yogurt, a variety of fruits, and healthier bread options. The positive impact on students is already evident, and it is wonderful to receive feedback on how they are becoming more open to trying new foods.

While some students have expressed concerns about missing out on sweet treats for birthdays, please be assured that we continue to celebrate these special occasions—with cake and treats included!

Following the Easter break, I will be sending out an invitation to a Healthier Eating Meeting, where we will discuss the long-term benefits of nutrition on health, well-being, and its impact both at school and at home. Your support in this initiative is greatly appreciated.

For those who provide packed lunches, I encourage you to explore these NHS-approved healthier lunchbox ideas:

Lunchbox ideas and recipes – Healthier Families - NHS

As always, I welcome any feedback or suggestions. Please feel free to get in touch via email at georgina@educateu.co.uk.

Best regards,

Georgina

Therapy House

Spring has arrived

Here at Therapy House we are welcoming Spring. The lighter evenings and the appearance of the sun can often be symbolic of our experiences. Our experiences flow, just like the seasons and each moment is valid and important. Noticing the changes of the living world can help us to recognise our own changes. Therapy House, as always is committed to supporting our families through changes and transitions.



Opportunities for play, at any age

In therapy, play can be a child's way of making sense of their world. Through play, children and young adults can express feelings they may not yet have words for, work through worries, and discover new ways to cope. Just like talking helps adults process their emotions, opportunities for play gives children a safe space to explore, heal, and process in a way that feels natural to them. Using core Person-Centred tools such as being child led in a non-judgemental environment integrated with other therapeutic interventions help to create the holistic offering of support we deliver at Therapy House. *"Play is the highest form of research."* — Albert Einstein.



EMDR

We are very proud to say that two of our valued team members Kym Clay and Priya Sathy have recently qualified as EMDR practitioners.

EMDR (Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing) is a therapy that helps people process and heal. By using guided eye movements or other forms of bilateral stimulation, EMDR helps the brain reprocess difficult experiences, making them feel less overwhelming. It is especially effective for trauma, helping individuals move from feeling stuck in the past to feeling more present and in control.

Congratulations Kym and Priya.

Intervention Spotlight: SALT



I’m delighted to introduce myself as the new Speech and Language Therapy Assistant at Educate U. Most of you should know me my name is Kinga, and I will be working closely with students to support their communication development. After the Easter break, I’ll be launching individual speech and language therapy sessions in a dedicated space at Liverpool Gardens.

Helping students unlock their full potential through speech and language development is something I’m truly passionate about. It’s an honour to be part of their learning journey, and I can’t wait to witness their progress first hand. Our sessions will focus not only on enhancing communication skills but also on fostering confidence and self-expression. Since every child develops at their own pace, I look forward to celebrating each milestone, no matter how big or small.

I am looking forward to working with you and your children to help them succeed!

Purple Day: World Epilepsy Day



On Wednesday 26th March Educate U had an incredible day as we came together to celebrate World Epilepsy Day! A brave and inspiring student from Class 4, who has epilepsy, along with her classmates, led a whole-school assembly to raise awareness and educate everyone on this important topic. Their presentation was both informative and heartfelt, helping to spread understanding and support throughout the school. A huge thank you to all the staff and children who wore purple it was truly heartwarming to see the entire school community united for such a meaningful cause. It was a magical and unforgettable day!

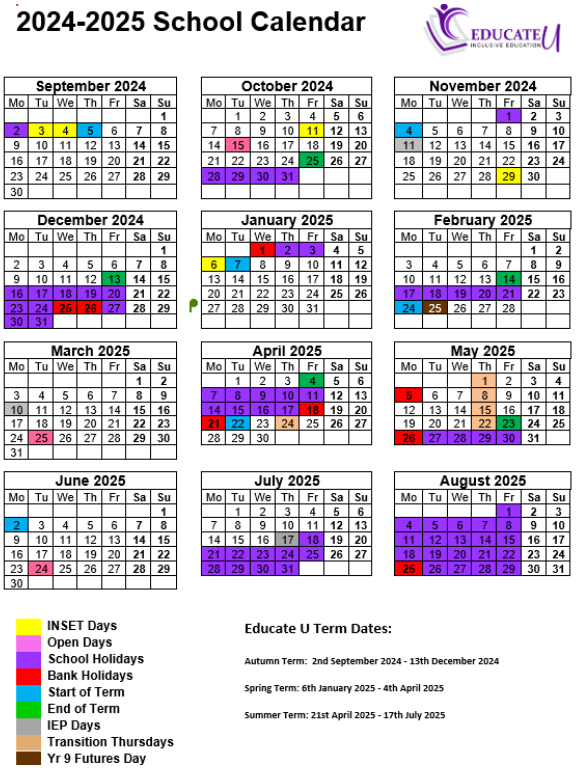
Important: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

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/WheJWF5WjM 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 as parent/carer and your child. We really appreciate your time and feedback and look forward to hearing from you!

Local SEN Events



2024-25 School Calendar



Dates for the Diary:

April 7th - 17th - Easter Break **April 18th & April 21st** - Good Friday and Easter Monday (No School) **April 22nd** - First day of Summer Term **April 24th May, 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd** - Transition Thursdays **May 5th** - Bank Holiday **May 15th & 16th** - Martha's and Hannah's class at Lodge Hill **May 26th** - Bank Holiday **May 27th - 20th** - May Half Term