Summer 1 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

As we come to the end of a very busy half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate some of the big milestones we've achieved together. Our students had an unforgettable time at Lodge Hill, throwing themselves into every challenge with courage and team spirit – a real highlight of the term. The fun isn't over quite yet as there is another Lodge Hill residential booked for July!

It's not just with social skills that our children and young people have made improvements on this half term. We have had lots of our young people take their Functional Skills exams this term and feel empowered and proud as a result. There is a real sense of pride when children show their books to me in class and a real awareness of their own progress which is incredible.

We know that for most of our children, change is never easy. It has been even more special and wonderful to see children and young people settle into their new classes with their new teachers and new peers this half term across Transition Thursdays. All children will be in their new classes from after half term.

We were thrilled to have passed the initial inspection for Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and now have an official physical inspection date booked in for July to recognise our ongoing commitment to creating a truly inclusive environment for every child and young person at Educate U.

Lastly of course, a huge thank you to everyone who supported us during our recent Ofsted inspection. Whilst we are disappointed in the overall grading, the report makes for lovely reading and is clear of the strengths of our quality of education and outstanding behaviour and attitudes and outstanding personal development and the high quality of our safeguarding. The inspection team recognised so many of the strengths we're proud of, and it was a real testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, students, and to you, our families. We will bounce back from this and have already started the work to ensure that we better accurately reflect the incredible provision that we are so that Ofsted view us as an Outstanding provision in all areas.

Have a lovely half term.

Warm wishes,

Sarah Paoletti

Staffing

Goodbye

Gemma - We have said a heartfelt goodbye to our amazing Forest School lead, Gemma. With her endless enthusiasm and passion for outdoor learning, she has guided the team with both skill and commitment, crafting enchanting woodland adventures that our children absolutely cherish. From building dens to lighting fires, hunting for bugs to sharing stories, she has help turn the forest into a realm of exploration and growth. Even Ofsted Inspectors took notice of her talent, commending her ability to seamlessly integrate the school curriculum with outdoor learning in the forest. Gemma will be very much missed and we wish her well as she moves back into her second passion, dentistry! **Kelly** - At the end of this term we say goodbye to our SEN tutor Kelly. She moves on to a new chapter over at Futures. Kelly has been with Educate U since the very beginning and her impact on this school has been nothing short of extraordinary. She brought dedication, positivity, and a deep care for every student she worked with. She's witnessed and contributed to the schools growth and transformation over the years. She's stepped into so many roles across the school—supporting students in different key stages, adapting to new challenges, and always doing it with a calm, determined presence. Thank you, Kelly, we wish you all the success and happiness in your new role.

Welcome **Molly -** Molly will be joining us as a teaching assistant. Molly is a compassionate and experienced support professional with a strong background in working with neurodivergent young people along with extensive training in safeguarding, communication, and person-centred care. **Bianca -** Bianca will also be joining us as a teaching assistant. Her previous roles have given her the experience and confidence to build strong, meaningful

relationships with those she supports, enabling her to create inclusive and nurturing environments where individuals feel valued and supported.



1 - Molly



2 - Bianca

Whole School Events: VE Day & Endangered Species Day



This half term has been full of vibrant whole school events that have brought our community together in both celebration and reflection. We marked the 80th Anniversary of VE Day with a poignant tribute to those who served, as pupils explored the importance of peace, resilience, and remembrance through creative projects across each class and marked the occasion with a two minute silence. In contrast, our Endangered Species Day sparked lively curiosity and compassionate conversations, as students explored arts and crafts featuring their favourite endangered creatures and took part in learning activities focused on conservation and protecting our planet's precious wildlife. It’s been wonderful to see our children and young people so engaged with both history and the future of our world.

Lodge Hill









We are delighted to share the exciting experience our KS3 and KS4 students had during their recent trip to Lodge Hill Activity Centre on the 15th and 16th of May. Set within 32 acres of stunning woodland in the South Downs National Park, Lodge Hill provided the perfect backdrop for a two-day adventure packed with fun, challenge, and personal growth.

Students took part in a fantastic range of activities including the low ropes course, abseiling, high zip line, crate stack challenge, wide games, and the ever-popular sno-tubing. These sessions were not only thrilling but also helped students develop essential skills such as teamwork, resilience, and confidence. Whether they were testing their balance on the low ropes, soaring through the trees on the zip line, or working together to build the highest crate tower possible, every moment was an opportunity to learn and grow.

The trip was a resounding success and left our students with wonderful memories and a real sense of achievement.

Upcoming Trips

The students in KS3 and KS4 will all be enjoying a trip to The Sea Life Centre in Brighton, where they will deepen their understanding of how climate change affects habitats and the impact this has on different animals, To enhance their topic of 'Minibeasts and Habitats', Primary will be visiting Arundel Wetlands Centre to take part in pond dipping and to enjoy a boat ride down the river Arun. Our primary students will also be heading to Lodge Hill for their trip in July. Dates are as follows:

- 12th June Arundel Wetlands – Primary class
- 19th June – Sea life Centre – Martha & Kalee's class
- 26th June – Sea life centre – Ellie & Hannah's class
- 10th July – Sea life centre – Caroline's class
- 2nd – 4th July – Lodge Hill – Primary class

Futures at Educate U



What a busy half term it has been once again for Futures at Educate U. The Year 11's have started their one- to- one careers chats with Martha, our Futures Lead. This space provides an opportunity for our young people to discuss their hopes and dreams for regarding post-16 options in a supportive, confidential environment. We look forward to hosting another careers- focused day in June, in which students from Year 10 and Year 9 will also participate in careers interviews. Within these sessions, alongside discussing options, the students will be exploring our new online virtual work experience platform, Springpod. This modular learning experience will help prepare the students for a future in the world of work, including Money Matters, Travelling to work and how to write a CV. We also have a trip planned to Worthing College at the end of June for students in year 9, 10, and 11. This will be a great way to see the facilities and courses on offer in our local area. Please email Martha at martha@educateu.co.uk if your child would like to join this outing.

SENCO NEWS

As part of our busy half term we were privileged that Gemma (qualified dental hygienist) organised, as part of our Healthier Eating Initiative, for each class to be given some time dedicated to exploring Oral Health. The students engaged fabulously in the presentation and enjoyed the interactive activities, including exploring hidden sugars in drinks, teeth disclosing and oral hygiene instructions.

Some of the key points the children may have shared with you at home include:

- Avoid sugary acidic foods and drinks, especially as snacks. Alternatively consume at mealtimes to reduce the amount of acid attacks on the teeth.
- Brush twice daily for two minutes, with a 1450ppm fluoride toothpaste (you do not need a fancy paste).
- Watch in a mirror where possible to ensure no areas are missed.

- Use floss or interdental brushes once a day.
- Spit but don’t rinse after brushing.









Following on from this, we have some exciting news about the healthier food we will be able to offer students, and this information will be shared with parents and students soon.

Other news is that we have successfully submitted our Inclusion Quality Mark paperwork, and the inspector will be coming in on Wednesday 9th July to talk to staff, students and parents. We would be very grateful if parents would be happy to talk to the inspector and if you would be willing to spend half an hour of your day to chat with him/her/them then please do let me know georgina@educateu.co.uk

We have also arranged for the West Sussex Social Communication Advisor to come and chat with some selected parents and observe their child in class, with recommendations moving forward. It is hoped that she will work with many of our students over the next academic year and contribute to staff training.

News from: Forest School

This half term at Forest School has been a celebration of nature, curiosity, and creativity. Linking closely with our school-wide topics of *"Mini Beasts and Small Worlds"* and *"Habitats and Climate Change"*, students have had the opportunity to explore and connect with the natural world.

Our learners have been thinking like wildlife by discovering how animals hide from predators using camouflage and clever sheltering tactics (high, low, in, and under!). Through nature walks, bug hunts, and careful observation, students have developed their mini-beast ID skills and sharpened their ability to spot and discuss living creatures in their natural environments.

Beyond just learning facts, our Forest School sessions have supported the development of awe and wonder, communication skills, teamwork, empathy, and creativity. Whether it's through journey stick crafting, whittling, sawing, mallet making, or team scavenger games, every student has contributed to and grown from these experiences.

Forest School also continues to offer a much-loved therapeutic space. Students regularly engage in mindfulness practices such as yoga and reflexology in the woods, which support emotional regulation and overall wellbeing. It's a peaceful, grounding experience that helps reset and recharge busy minds.

We're incredibly proud of how every student has developed and thrived in this beautiful environment. We're very lucky to have such an inspiring outdoor space and look forward to all that the next half term in the woods will bring!

News from: Liverpool Gardens



We're delighted to share that we have now settled into the Liverpool Gardens site. The staff based here are: Toni, our Occupational Therapy Assistant; Kinga, our Speech and Language Therapy Assistant and ELSA; Sarah, our SEN Outreach Teacher; and Georgina, our SENCO. We're also looking forward to welcoming Grace, who will be joining us soon as our Exams Officer.

Please note that all Annual Reviews will now take place at the Liverpool Gardens site. A map with directions will be provided when your child's review is due.

New from: Therapy House

Feels like Summer

Hello again from Therapy House.

The end of this term really comes with a sense of change; we have our wonderful students starting to say goodbye to their old classes and move forward to new beginnings which can bring a mixture of anxiety and excitement. At Therapy House we work closely and smoothly with school, offering a PACEful, relational approach in supporting our young people through these changes.



PACE Workshop

We are very fortunate to have in our therapy team a qualified practitioner to facilitate PACE led Parent/Child Workshops. Kym creates an environment of compassion where parents alongside the children can feel heard, held and supported. If anyone is interested in finding out more around this please email kym@educateu.co.uk



Growing

Through our commitment towards holistic support and meeting the child where they are we collaborate with our young people on creating the therapeutic interventions which feel right for them, whether this be music, movement, play or talking. Currently there is an intervention involving watching and nature grow. Looking at the unique needs of the different seeds, recognising how each plant needs something different and that each seed will develop in their own beautiful, special way. The plants are thriving.



Music

So many of our young people enjoy music, listening, creating or singing and here at Therapy House we recognise the powerful and safe communication music offers. Music engages all parts of the brain, including the areas such as the amygdala and hippocampus which hold emotions and memories that maybe feel too difficult to verbalise with words, music can help to access this in a safer, less direct way.

Music also helps with regulating the nervous system, promotes safe boundaries and a creative experience along with offering shared joy. To quote Plato

“Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything.” – Plato



Exams



This half term has seen a significant number of students sitting exams — both mock assessments and formal qualifications. We are incredibly proud of the effort, resilience, and determination our students have shown throughout this exam period. While we await the official outcomes from the exam boards, we want to recognise and celebrate the commitment our students have demonstrated. We're also pleased to share some exciting news: we have received official approval from the exam board to use Liverpool Gardens as an exam venue. This is a fantastic development, as the space provides a calm, well-suited environment for students to perform at their best.

Student Council



This term, we've had a bit of a change in our Student Council team. We want to say a huge thank you and farewell to Hannah, who's stepping down from the student council to focus on her new role as a Class Tutor. The whole student council team wants to thank Hannah for her hard work, dedication and support in setting up and championing Educate U's student council from the beginning. We will miss her being part of our meetings, but we know she's still cheering us on from her classroom! Going into the new academic term, we're also really excited to welcome Paige and Sam to the team. They've already jumped in with loads of enthusiasm and great ideas, and we're looking forward to working alongside them to keep the student voice heard across the school. The Student Council team.

ASDAN

Secondary classes have been busy this half term working on their Bronze and Silver Awards for ASDAN. We have covered lots of different challenges looking at different skill areas.

These have included the topic 'My Environment' and students chose 'Improve the look of a garden' as one of our challenges. We have planted some sunflower seeds which we started in small pots on our classroom windowsill. They are now getting much taller and we can think about where to put them in our school garden so they can grow tall and make the garden look cheerful. We will also weed and prepare our soil as we have been researching what are different habitats and what a plant will need to grow.

Students are also working on some individual topics including gaining more skills for Independent Living; students have baked cakes and followed recipes showing good use of weighing and measuring accurately. Also 'Clean and Tidy a Room' students have reorganised the classroom and taken down old displays and planned new displays for the room. They have also tidied cupboards and organised the stationery and equipment. Some of our older students have chosen the module Beliefs and Values to learn more about a moral issue so are researching how forensics are used to help solve crimes and have used this to help them identify how people may feel about certain crimes and are our crime solving methods effective? For Health and Wellbeing, the challenge has been to 'Learn something New' so a student has planned and created a design for a hoodie. They researched using dyes and planned their design first then have learnt to use fabric dyes and sewn on their own extra designs cut from their chosen fabric having never sewn anything before!

Clubs Spotlight: D&D



Back in November staff identified an interest amongst several students for Dungeons and Dragons. This interest has been cultivated and allowed for a Games Club every week where students can share their interest and passion to play Dungeons and Dragons. At the club, students can make fantastic characters to roleplay as and get stuck into a magical world; fighting monsters, exploring dungeons, and interacting with a host of other characters involving Elves, Orcs and Goblins.

In each session, a player is nominated as the Dungeon Master and builds the world for other players to explore as well as improvising the rewards and consequences of the players' decisions. At the club we have a rotation system, so everyone has a chance to take on the role of Dungeon Master and share their story with the group.

The club has allowed our students to hone certain skills such as creative thinking and problem solving, having to make a character with their own backstory and react to obstacles introduced by the Dungeon Master. There's also a lot of maths involved with rolling so many dice! One of the greatest benefits the students can gain from the club is social skills via peer interaction, voicing opinions and turn taking. Best of all, there are no losers in Dungeons and Dragons, no matter the roll, the story continues!

DANCE CLUB!



After half term, we have an exciting new opportunity for pupils at Educate U. A dance class will be run on Friday afternoons lead by Hope who has previous dance teaching experience and qualifications. Dance club will be able to be used towards ASDAN qualifications. There will be a variety of dance styles such as jazz, street, and contemporary that will be taught alongside different techniques. This club is open to all students across the school, and we are very excited to start this new experience!

Intervention Spotlight: OT



Hello, I am delighted to introduce myself, my name is Toni, and I am the new Occupational Therapist Assistant at Educate U. My role involves working closely with students to support

their ability to participate in daily activities. This includes guiding them through therapeutic exercises to improve motor skills and functional learning, based on bespoke programmes designed by a consultant Occupational Therapist. I will work closely with teachers so we can make the classroom environment more accessible and support students in becoming more independent. I am thrilled to be part of this journey and look forward to celebrating the progress our students make.

Important: Parent and Carer Voice Survey

We greatly value your thoughts and we're always looking for ways to improve our school community and our processes. We would be very grateful if you could take a few moments to complete the Microsoft Form linked below.

https://forms.office.com/e/c7Nh3AKRdt

Your feedback plays a vital role in helping us reflect on what's working well and where we can make things even better. Whether it's a quick comment or a more detailed suggestion, your voice really matters to us. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Announcement



We're excited to announce that our annual **Summer Fair** will be on **Thursday, 19th June 2025** join us for a fun-filled afternoon of laughter, games, and of course prizes!

Local SEN Events/News

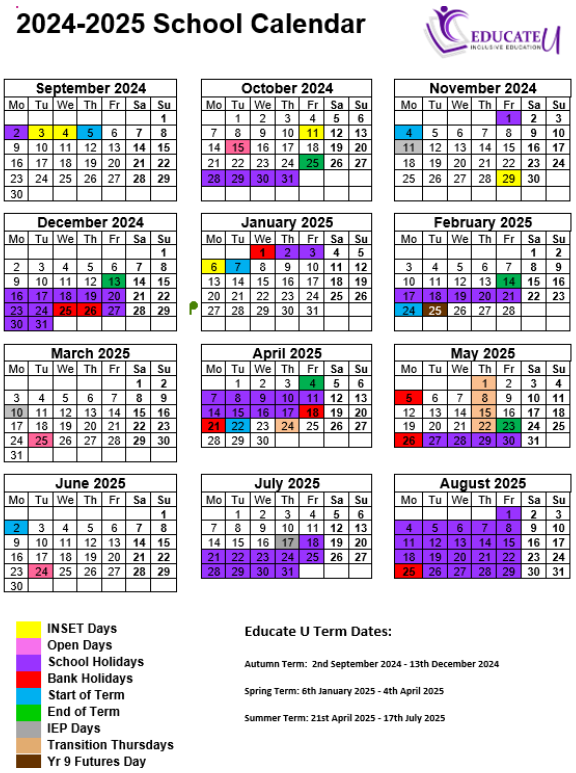




News from West Sussex "We are pleased to confirm that the updated Short Breaks Statement and Summary Statement 2025-28 can now be found at the bottom of the Short Breaks page on the Local Offer Community activities and Short Breaks - West Sussex County Council We have also amended the Local Offer page to ensure that there is a consistent approach across the documents and the LO page. We will work on an easy read version of the Summary Statement in the next few months.

We are grateful to the West Sussex Parent Carer Forum who helped developed these documents."

2024-25 School Calendar



Dates for the Diary: May 26th - Bank Holiday **May 27th - 30th -** May Half Term **June 19th -** Summer Fair **June 24th -** Open Day at Educate U (students to leave at 12:00pm) **July 16th -** Last day of school for students **July 17th -** IEP Day (no school for students)