Autumn 2025/2026 Term 1 Newsletter



Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of this half term, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible work happening across Educate U.

Our students have dived enthusiastically into our termly topics: ‘Extreme Planet’ has captured the imaginations of our secondary students, while our primary students have explored the wonders of ‘Space’. Across all year groups, our young people have shown tremendous focus; many sitting their Functional Skills exams, and others working hard towards GCSEs and BTEC qualifications. It makes me incredibly proud to see each child feel pride in themselves, where their anxiety may once have been a barrier to education.

It has also been fantastic to see the success of our Lodge Hill residential visit, giving students hands-on learning experiences, deepen social connections and give memories that will last a lifetime.

We have received some truly exceptional recognition this term:

- Our plaque arrived to mark our status from the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) as a Centre of Excellence. The assessment was right at the end of the summer term (July 25) and this is a significant achievement and reflects our deep commitment to inclusion, teaching, and learning.

- Trauma-Informed Schools (TIS) Assessment (Oct 25): The assessor provided incredible feedback, recognising the consistent care and support we provide to all our students.

Keep an eye out in the coming weeks for the award plaques that will be proudly displayed at the front of our school as a visible testament to the outstanding work happening here every day.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that our Ofsted Action Plan is now complete. We are awaiting re-inspection, confident that our progress and commitment to excellence will be recognised.

Thank you to all our staff, students, and families for making this term so successful. Your continued support, hard work, and enthusiasm ensure Educate U remains a place where every young person can thrive.

Wishing everyone a restful half-term and looking forward to an exciting second half to Autumn term.

Warm regards,

Sarah Paoletti

Headteacher





Staffing

Goodbye

This term, we say goodbye to Matthew. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication during his time at Educate U, and wish him every success in the next chapter of his journey.

We are actively recruiting for a Teaching Assistant at the moment.

Trauma Informed School Award

TRAUMA INFORMED UK™ SCHOOLS
TISUK Award winning school

Our Trauma-Informed Journey

We welcomed Siobhán from Trauma Informed Schools UK (TISUK) for our accreditation visit. It was a chance to share the journey we have been on together as a community, one built on care, connection, and keeping children at the centre of all we do.

The feedback was nothing short of exceptional. Siobhán described our practice as *"worthy of being shared with other schools"*, high praise indeed! She was struck by the seamless way education and therapy come together across all our sites and was deeply moved by the high aspirations we hold for our children, even in the face of significant trauma.

She highlighted so many strengths, including:

- The nurturing experiences at Forest School
- The breadth of therapeutic provision at Liverpool Gardens and Therapy House
- The engaging curriculum and care within our classrooms

At one point, the assessor admitted she was nearly moved to tears by the depth of attunement, care, and connection she witnessed between staff and children.

A special thank you to the parents who came in and shared your views. Your stories and journeys deeply moved Siobhán and showed so powerfully the impact of the provision around you and your child.

This recognition is not about one moment or one visit. It is about the *everyday*, the small and consistent acts of playfulness, acceptance, curiosity, and empathy that make up the fabric of our community. It is about teachers, therapists, support staff, admin, parents, and carers working together, with the child always at the centre.

We are now recognised nationally as a Trauma and Mental Health Informed School. We have received our plaque that hangs proudly in the front of the main school building along with out IQM Centre of Excellence award.

This is such a collective achievement. It belongs to every one of us, and most importantly, it honours the extraordinary provision we hold for our children every single day.

To read the final report click here.

Whole School Events



Black History Month

This Month we have been celebrating Black History Month with the theme this year being 'Standing Firm in Power and Pride'. Black History Month is celebrated every October it's a special time to recognise and celebrate the amazing achievements, stories, and contributions of Black people across the United Kingdom. This year's theme is all about discovering hidden histories and sharing the untold stories of Black people who have helped shape the UK and the world. It's a great chance for us all to learn something new, be inspired, and celebrate together!

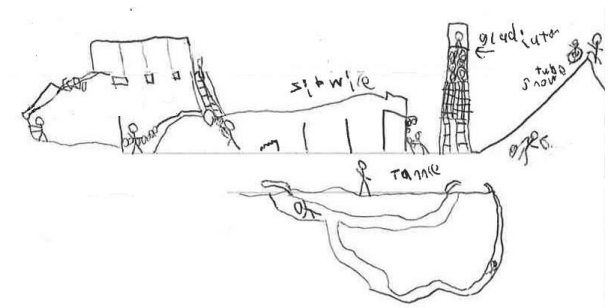
Virtual Assemblies

This term marked an exciting first our very own Virtual Assembly! We know how important assemblies are for bringing our school community together, but we also understand that not every student feels completely comfortable in large group settings. So, we introduced Virtual Assemblies a fun and inclusive way for everyone to take part from their own safe spaces, surrounded by familiar adults. The result? Fantastic engagement across the school! Students loved watching the assembly, and there was plenty of excitement over Emma, our Deputy Headteacher's surprise appearance… broadcasting live from a *newsroom background*!

Our Amazing Trip to Lodge Hill







Some of our amazing secondary school students went on a school residential to Lodge Hill and it was one of the best adventures ever!! As soon as we arrived, we were welcomed by the friendly staff. They made us feel really safe and excited about everything we were going to do. During our trip we got to do lots of activities including low ropes, zip wire, climbing, tunnelling, sno-tubing and new one for Educate U...Axe Throwing! The trip was a resounding success, and it was great to see how the students grew in confidence, independence and teamwork. We are looking forward to returning next year.

Curriculum Trips

As part of our curriculum topics ‘Space’ and ‘Extreme Planet’ all classes will be visiting The Observatory Science Centre in East Sussex this term. During the visit, pupils will enjoy an engaging talk from the schools’ team, featuring exciting experiments and interactive elements to enhance their learning.

The visits are scheduled as follows:

23rd October - Martha and Kalee's Class - Down to Earth Talk

6th November - Elle and Laura's Class - Destination Space Talk

13th November - Ellie's Class- Down to Earth Talk

20th November - Hannah's and Caroline Class - Down to Earth Talk

During the visit we will receive a talk from the school team, which will include experiments and interactive elements. One class has already been and had a fantastic time exploring and learning about our 'Extreme Earth' we look forward to sharing more about all the visits in our next newsletter!

Attendance



At Educate U, we know that regular attendance is central to every student's learning, wellbeing, and progress. Consistent attendance not only allows students to access lessons but also supports their emotional development, social connections, and sense of routine, particularly for our children with SEN or trauma experiences.

Students who attend school regularly are more likely to:

- Achieve Academic Success: Full participation in lessons supports understanding, retention, and achievement across the curriculum.
- Build Relationships and Social Skills: School provides a safe environment for friendships, collaboration, and communication which is vital for our children with an SEMH profile to build that sense of belonging.
- Develop Positive Habits and Resilience: Consistent routines help students manage daily life, build independence and increase confidence in their abilities.

Even missing just two days a month, around 18 days per school year, can have a significant impact on a student's learning and development.

Holiday Requests

We have recently received a number of holiday requests. We would like to remind families that, in line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance, headteachers cannot authorise term-time holidays for leisure purposes. Absences will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and all requests are carefully reviewed against this guidance.

Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA)

We understand that some students face barriers to regular attendance. At Educate U, we adopt a trauma-informed and SEN-aware approach, offering personalised support, outreach tutor, nurturing routines, and close communication with families to help students attend consistently. At the same time, we remain mindful of DfE oversight, ensuring our attendance policies meet national standards.

Attendance Policy

- **Punctuality:** Students should arrive on time so they do not miss learning. Doors open at 09:25am, and collection is prompt at the end of the day. Please notify us of any changes in advance.
- **Reporting Absences:** Contact the school before 08:00am on the first day of absence via 01903 297906 or office@educateu.co.uk.
- **Medical Appointments:** Appointments should be scheduled outside school hours whenever possible. Evidence will be required to ensure the correct attendance code is recorded.

For more information, see our Attendance Policy. Thank you for working with us to make regular attendance a priority.

Safeguarding

West Sussex Dedicated Schools Teams have offered to do some workshops for all our parents / carers and guardians. Before we book any of their workshops on behalf of our parent / carers and guardians we wanted to get our families opinion on which would be beneficial to you. We have therefore created a very short questionnaire and are requesting for you to look through the list and indicated the workshops that you would be interested in attending.

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

Student Council



The Student Council has been busy this term, working hard to make our school an even happier and more connected place for everyone.

We're thrilled to welcome Molly to the Student Council staff team! Their enthusiasm and ideas have already made a great impression.

We're also very excited to welcome two students from primary to our school council community it's wonderful to have you with us.

With new members on the student council team, we decided to put together a mission statement to represent who we are, and what we prioritise:

"Our school council wants to promote positive mental health, and encourage friendship building within our school."

This statement truly reflects what we believe in supporting one another, creating a kind and inclusive school community, and making sure everyone feels they belong.

At our most recent meeting, we spent time discussing school safeguarding and how students can feel safe and supported every day. We asked important questions like:

- Do students know who to talk to if they're worried?

- Do they feel safe in school?
- Do they know who our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is?

Each council member has taken questionnaire's back to their class so that everyone has a voice in these important conversations. Once the results are collected, we'll share what we've learned and discuss any ideas to make our school even safer.

One of our regular Student Council members in secondary showed amazing leadership and community spirit by planning a Halloween event for students as part of their ASDAN completely off their own initiative! We were so impressed with their creativity and commitment, and many students dressed up and took part in the activities. It was spook-tacular!

Looking Ahead

The Student Council is excited to keep working towards our mission supporting mental health, building friendships, and creating a safe, positive school environment for everyone. Our next priority is to update the Wellbeing board outside Mark's room and then start planning towards the festive season! Stay tuned!

Exams

It has been a busy and productive first half of the term, and we are delighted to share some exciting developments. Our move to the Liverpool Gardens site has been a fantastic change, and it's wonderful to see how well our students are thriving in this new environment.

So far this term, a total of 19 exams have taken place, these have been a mix of both mock and actual exams across varying levels of Functional Skills Maths and English. Our students have shown great commitment and determination throughout, and they should be immensely proud of their efforts and achievements.

We look forward to building on this positive momentum as we move into the second half of the term.

Futures at Educate U



Post-16 Planning

We've started booking tours of local colleges for interested Year 10 and 11 students as part of their post-16 planning. Upcoming visits include:

- **Futures, Worthing:** Maths, English, Hair & Beauty, Art, Food & Catering (7th/14th November 2025)
- **Northbrook College, Durrington:** Engineering, Construction, Hair & Beauty, Childcare, and Uniformed Services (4th December)
- **Brinsbury College, Pulborough:** Animal Management, Horticulture, and Equine Studies (January 2026)

These visits will give students valuable insight into the wide range of courses and career pathways available after Year 11. Please speak to Martha if you are interested in joining one of these trips.

Careers Adviser

We're excited to welcome Rachel Hagger, Careers Adviser from Worthing College, who will be offering one-to-one careers advice sessions for our Year 10 and 11 students. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to discuss their future plans and explore suitable courses and careers.

Careers Fair

Our Careers Fair will take place on Wednesday 21st January, 3.15–4.15pm. Representatives from the Chichester College Group, The Sand Project Worthing, and several other local employers and training providers will be available to talk to our Year 10 and 11 students about future education, training, and employment options.

SENCO NEWS

I am extremely excited to announce that not only did we achieve the Inclusion Quality Mark but due to our outstanding provision we have been awarded a Centre of Excellence.

The glowing report we received was several pages long, but this is just a snippet of the feedback:

'From the moment I arrived at Educate U, I was greeted warmly by all and it was very clear to see how enthusiastic everyone was to show off their school to me. During my first meeting with SLT the head teacher described her school as 'Captain Inclusive' and this description didn't fail to disappoint throughout my day.

Educate U is a unique nurturing and inclusive school that prioritises a supportive environment for all its students. The school fosters positive relationships and adopts a flexible approach, celebrating diversity and inclusion. Every student is well-known to all the staff, who are dedicated to addressing individual needs and overcoming challenges.

The culture at Educate U has been firmly embedded by the work of the inspiring head teacher who is an incredibly positive influence to the entire school community. The head has created an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and respected and

The practice that I observed on my visit more than justifies Educate U being awarded Centre of Excellence status. Leaders and staff have much to share with other schools on how to implement really great inclusive practices.'

Due to us now being a Centre of Excellence, we will meet with other schools and share good practice. Inclusion is a journey, and we will continue to strive for continued excellence over the next year and beyond.

Healthy Eating initiative

As you are aware we have gradually brought in a healthier eating strategy over the last year. Students have been offered a complimentary hot meal each Thursday and it has been lovely to see most of the students sample the food, some coming back for seconds! We get weekly updates from the students and staff and this is fed back to the company who provides the food.

Some of the food delivered over the last few weeks has been meaty space balls in a tomato sauce with pasta, chick'n and leek bake, vegetable curry and a cottage pie with veg. Puddings have included muffins, fruit pots and chocolate cake with chocolate custard.

Healthy eating at school reduces sugar spikes and ensures student are able to settle to learning. We will always support families who wish to continue to provide packed lunch for their child but please be aware that sweets/excessive chocolate or crisps should be avoided. Sugary drinks are not allowed in school.

News from Liverpool Gardens

Exams have started to take place in our dedicated space at Liverpool Gardens. Toni is working hard in the Occupational Therapy room and Kinga is busy with her speech & Language and ELSA sessions.

Sarah, our outreach tutor, is also busy working with students on a 1-1 basis from Liverpool Gardens.

Just a polite reminder that all Annual Reviews will be at this new site. Directions will be given when the review is being arranged:



Address: 19 Liverpool Gardens, BN11 1RY – red cross on map.

There is a one-way system which comes out onto Chapel Road.

Parking is limited, so if you have a blue badge there is parking outside or on Chapel Road.

Otherwise, there is paid parking at the NCP car park by the Connaught Theatre or free 2-hour parking at Waitrose (you do not have to buy anything). It is a 5-minute walk from there.

News from: Therapy House

Welcome back

Looking outside we can notice the leaves have begun to change colour and fall to the ground, the air has become cooler and the sun sets earlier, all these changes symbolise a new academic year and it's been a pleasure to reconnect and welcome our students back to Educate U and Therapy House. Autumn reminds us that changes are natural, as we notice changes in nature, we can offer a gentle noticing of changes within or around our children. At Therapy House, we have been listening to our students share their memories of the summer and helping support them transition back to term time.



In the same way a tree releases their leaves when they become too heavy to hold, we invite out students to release their worries or thoughts into a warm, safe contained space. At therapy house we welcome all weathers and seasons, understanding that growth and healing won't always look and feel like sunshine. We sit alongside the children in what ever storm they are experiencing.

Trauma Informed School Visit



Nurturing the whole child includes accepting all and every part of them and at Therapy House we say "all feelings are welcome" meaning "We see all of you and every part of you is welcome here)

Therapy House is committed as ever to provide warmth and understanding, we are very proud of Educate U's accreditation from Trauma Informed School and we are ready to continue with trauma informed approaches to support the children through the year.

- The Therapy House Team

Forest School







Primary: In Primary, the key focus was to welcome our new students to the woods and allowing them a safe place to explore nature whilst also linking to the topic of Rainforests. In groups we have discussed different elements of a rainforest such as what animals live in a rainforest and how our wood is like a rainforest. The students have taken part in different activities such as making their own eco-systems, creating their own rainforest animal, building shelters for the wildlife in the woods and being at one with nature by using the hammocks as a chance to relax. Last week, we also got into the Halloween spirit, and the children carved their own pumpkins using their own design.

Secondary: In Secondary, we had group discussions based on their topic of Extreme Planet, and how these extreme weathers or experiences effect the woods. Some members of the group have been working on their own shelters and dens, so when building these I have asked them to focus on ensuring their creation can withstand an extreme weather condition. This has been completed by them thinking about how their shelter should be designed and what type of wood would be needed for their shelters. Other members of the group have continued whittling projects that they started before the summer holidays, and focusing on their whittling skills especially with the smaller parts of the wood they are carving. Each student also had the opportunity last week to carve their own pumpkin using their own designs.

As the weather gets colder, please remember to send your children with appropriate clothing, including a change of clothes, hats, mittens, and proper footwear.

Intervention Staff Spotlight: Music and Media Intervention



Hello, my name is David C.

My work with our students is about building self-esteem through playful creativity. Many of our children and young people struggle to focus or they don't believe they can achieve.

I use music, sound, film, and digital tools to tap into what already excites them. Once they're engaged, confidence follows. They can be learning a guitar riff, designing a game, making a documentary, or creating something completely original, the important part is, it's totally theirs.

Game design and documentary projects teach planning, teamwork, and digital skills without ever feeling like class-based schoolwork that might not originally be achievable in a classroom. Performing live music builds self-belief in a way no classroom ever could.

Clubs Spotlight: Football Club



Hello, I'm Will and I run football club every Friday. I've played football for as long as I can remember and have been part of various teams over the years. Playing football has had a hugely positive impact on my life, especially in my early years it helped me build confidence, improve my communication, and develop important social skills, all while doing something I loved. That's exactly what I hope to bring to our students through 'football club' . Football provides a fun and inclusive way for our pupils to work together, express themselves, and build friendships, all while staying active and learning new skills.

Over the past few weeks, we've been focusing on passing, teamwork, and supporting one another on and off the pitch. The children have been brilliant at encouraging each other and really enjoy putting what they've learned into practice during a match at the end of each session. It's been fantastic to see their enthusiasm grow and confidence build each week. The sessions have been excellent so far, and I'm excited to see how much our students can develop over the coming weeks.

Exciting Expansion at Educate U

We are thrilled to announce that we have acquired an additional building at 17 Liverpool Gardens, directly connected to our current Liverpool Gardens site at number 19! This effectively doubles the space available to Liverpool Gardens and represents an exciting step in our plans to expand and educate more children in the future. For now, the building will undergo stringent compliance and safety checks before being used as office and administrative spaces, ensuring it meets all our high standards.

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.

Upcoming Events

Blaze Fire and Rescue Course

Our school is proud to be working in partnership with the West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service Targeted Education Team to deliver the BLAZE Early Intervention Programme. This exciting initiative helps young people develop confidence, resilience, and positive wellbeing through activities inspired by the role of a firefighter. A key part of the programme is a Service Level Agreement (SLA) between home, school, and WSFRS, which ensures that every student receives the best possible support before, during, and after their BLAZE experience. The agreement also helps young people understand what is expected of them in terms of behaviour, commitment, and participation, so they can make the most of this valuable opportunity**.**

Eight of our KS3 and KS4 students will be taking part in the course in Lancing from **Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th November.** This exciting programme offers students the opportunity to develop essential life skills, teamwork, and confidence while learning from experienced fire and rescue professionals.

Throughout the week, students will take part in a variety of engaging and practical activities, including:

- Drill Yard training such as hose running and firefighter simulation exercises
- Orienteering around the local community
- Communication and team-building challenges
- Growth Mindset activities
- Fire Safety Education sessions

Students will need to be available each day of the course, which means they will miss other school activities, including therapies, during this time. Transport for students and support staff will be provided between school and Lancing, so taxi arrangements will not be affected.

The week will conclude with a special ‘Passing Out’ Ceremony on Friday, **November 8th**, where friends, family, and teachers are invited to celebrate the students’ hard work and accomplishments.

RNLI

As part of our PSHE topic, 'Self- care Support and Safety' we have Andy from RNLI Shoreham coming into school to give a presentation on Water Safety on **November 13th.**

Online Safety Meeting for Parents

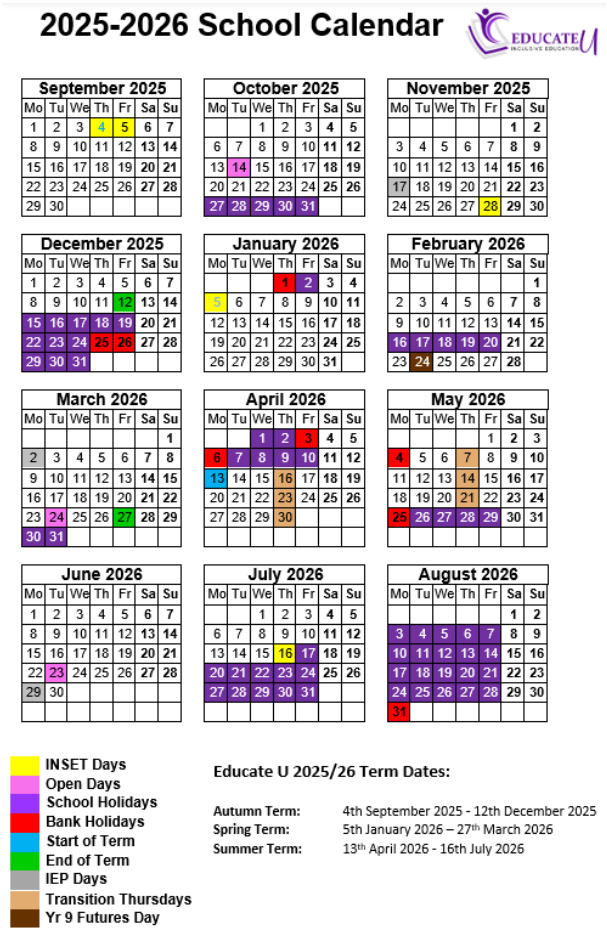
On **November 26th** we will be hosting a Online Safety Meeting for all parents and carers to attend online from 3:15pm, more details will be sent home in an email.

Christmas Fair



We’re delighted to announce our Christmas Fair will take place on **Thursday 4th December** at Educate U’s main school site. Join us for a festive afternoon filled with treats, games, and Christmas cheer. It’s a lovely way to celebrate together as a school community, all families are welcome!

2025-26 School Calendar



Date for the diary:

27th - 31st October - Half term

17th November - IEP Day

28th November - INSET Day

4th December - Christmas Fair

12th December - End of term