

Belong School Devon

Summer recap

From the Headteacher

The summer term is always a busy time at Belong School Devon, but this Summer has been especially so. I am very pleased to announce that as a result of our Ofsted Inspection in May, we are now rated as a Good school. It is a great feeling for my staff and I to have our efforts and the hard work of the students recognised. Throughout the inspection our students were fantastic as they continued to learn and engage despite the small team of new faces inspecting the school and their lessons.

As we approach the Summer examinations, our KS4 students are busy preparing for Functional Skills and GCSE exams. This also means that the time to say goodbye to our Year 11 students is drawing close. As always, it will be a proud moment as we take the time to reflect on how far our students have progressed. For regular updates, please see our website www.belonglearning.co.uk, as well as our Facebook page and twitter feed (@belong_devon).

Maths



In Maths lessons our students have been cracking through the syllabus, with Year 11s working hard in preparation for the GCSE summer examinations series. All of our active year 11s have either successfully completed an Entry Level 3 qualification for Maths or are taking their GCSE in Maths. We have 3 students taking the higher GCSE and we have 11 students taking foundation GCSE.

Year 9 have just completed their first end-of-module assessment on algebra and have just started looking at a new geometry topic - Angles in Polygons.



English

In English lessons students have been developing speaking and listening skills for both Functional Skills and GCSE exams. Assessment involves each student talking about an area of personal interest. This is not always an easy task, yet all students achieved a Functional Skills or GCSE level pass. Topics have included Cyber security, the band Korn, military history and football, to name just a few.

Spoken language skills are at the heart of English teaching at Belong Devon, whether students have specific communication needs or not. Being able to express ourselves leads to self-advocacy, and the ability to participate in discussion supports engagement with other people and the world around us; these skills will be strengths for life.



Science

This term we have been gearing up for GCSE Physics and Biology. It has been amazing to see 5 of our students prepare and take GCSE Physics and one of our students prepare and take GCSE biology. The students finished their syllabus at Easter with the Physics students looking at Space and our place in the Universe. In Biology we have been looking at the theory of evolution and inheritance.

Since Easter we have been purely in revision mode. This involved revision of the content from the last two years, doing lots of past exam questions, and going over the required practicals in preparation for the two final papers.

Year 9 students have been studying their overview of science and we have considered such topics as Ecosystems, evolution, the structure of the Earth, Space and more recently completed a module on human reproduction. Lots of great topics to learn about and consider as these students get ready for studying Science in years 10 and 11



Art Exhibition

Presenting works created by the young people of Belong School Devon. A showcase featuring exciting works in sculpture, painting, diorama, relief, photography, digital artworks, collage and installation art.

Positive Light
Projects

184 - 187 Sidwell Street
Exeter
EX4 6RD

28
June
2023

10am-5pm

In our Art sessions our young people have been extremely busy creating imaginative, exciting and thoughtful works which we be putting on show at the Positive Light Projects on the 28th of June. This show will feature a dynamic selection of works including photography, digital art, sculpture, painting and some interactive exhibits.

The exhibition will take place on Wednesday 28th June, from 10am-5pm. It is being held at the Positive Light Projects, 184 - 187 Sidwell Street, Exeter, EX4 6RD.

Our vision for the department is of a place where our students can come with confidence and a sense of ownership, where they can lead their own projects with support from staff and access the specialist skills and resources needed to realise their own ideas.



Trauma Informed and Mental Health Training at Belong School Devon

This term, Belong School Devon's Mental Health and Trauma Informed leads Shannon Norman and John Green have continued to offer evening sessions to parents and carers.

In addition to the opportunity for discussion and sharing experiences, John and Shannon offer information on strategies and approaches that can be used to help support young people both inside and outside the school environment.

Shannon and John have produced a Parent Guide to Mental Health and Trauma Informed Practice, with some great examples of strategies that are used in school as part of Belong Learning Relational Practice. This is available from the school's website: www.belonglearning.co.uk For more information on our Mental Health and trauma Informed sessions, please contact reception.devon@belonglearning.co.uk.



Humanities students planned and took part in a trip to Dawlish Warren as part of their preparation for Geography paper 3, and coasts revision in preparation for paper 1. Students created an itinerary for the trip, including train times and buying tickets as part of their ASDAN work.

While there, we looked at coastal landforms created by erosion and deposition and analysed hard and soft engineering methods used to protect sea cliffs and coastlines.



Humanities

Entry Level History students have worked really hard to ensure that they have completed both papers and the independent task needed for their entry level qualification. Their hard work has now been submitted ready for the results later this summer.

Home Cooking



As this year draws to a close it is amazing to reflect on the dramatic improvements in the skill level of all those students who first stepped into the kitchen with no prior knowledge at the start of the year.

I have no doubt that these young people will be able to take the skills and knowledge developed and thrive with the new found independence as they move beyond our school.

Sensory and life skills sessions have been met with great enthusiasm, with a range of healthy basic meals being prepared, plus the occasional sweet treat thrown in for good measure!

The quality of the food prepared is of such a high standard it could easily be presented in a restaurant setting. All of us are looking forward to creating some wonderful food in the future and maybe working with the next Jamie Oliver!

DEVON

Academic Team

SCHOOL

Our teaching team have a huge range of expertise in all aspects of both the primary and secondary curriculum, and all have a high level of understanding of the teaching of students with EHCPs.

Through a clear understanding of the needs of all pupils with special educational needs, the teaching team adapt teaching to support pupils education according to their physical, social and intellectual development at different stages of maturation. We offer a range of opportunities to learn and thrive tailored to the individual needs and create bespoke timetables and learning groups to meet these needs. All teaching is an individualised, targeted intervention based on thorough, accurate baselining and target setting for each student and prepares them for their future post-16 provision and life beyond. Teachers have a strong knowledge of their subject and communicate this to young people in an enthusiastic and motivating way, supporting the students to engage fully in their learning, whilst also having the best interests of the students in mind and putting their mental wellbeing at the forefront. The teaching team helps each student to become aware of their place in the school and in the wider community working closely with each student to achieve their aspiration through appropriate teaching to promote healthy approach to lifelong learners.

Dates and Notices

Key Dates

19th-23rd June

Functional Skills exams

Monday 26th June

Year 11 reports

Monday 26th June

Year 11 Activities Week

Wednesday 28th June

Final day of GCSE exams

Friday 30th June

Final day for Year 11 students

3rd-14th July

IEP review meetings

Monday 17th July

Year 9 and 10 reports

Friday 21st July

Last day of the Summer term

24th August 2023

GCSE Exam Result release date*

Friday 1st September

INSET Day - no students

Monday 4th September

INSET Day - no students

Tuesday 5th September

Term starts for all students

11th - 22nd September

IEP Initial meetings with parents and carers

23rd - 3rd November

Half term holiday

Monday 18th December 2023

Final day of term for students.

* GCSE and other results released on the 24th August will be emailed and posted out on the day - no students or parents/carers need to attend to collect results. If you have any questions about this process, please contact the school by phone or email.