

WEATHERFIELD ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

TRANSITION

Our whole-school transition days will take place on 1st July and 8th July. Students will receive details of their new class teacher, supporting staff, class name, and room number one week before their transition day, helping them feel prepared and confident.

We are also introducing digital transition handbooks, available from 8th July, giving families plenty of time to review key information ahead of September.

TARGETED YOUTH ADVISOR

During the weeks beginning 1st and 8th June, our Targeted Youth Advisor will be visiting school to meet with Central Bedfordshire students in Year 11 and Year 14. These short conversations will focus on students' interests, hopes, and ideas for their future.

This is part of the impartial careers guidance offered to all young people. The purpose is to help students think about their long-term goals and the pathways that may support them. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to get in touch. Further details will be shared for other visits later.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ✓ Summer 2 Curriculum Maps sent out: Friday 22nd May
- ✓ Half Term: Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May
- ✓ Training Day: Monday 1st June
- ✓ Pupils return to school: Tuesday 2nd June
- ✓ Annual Reports sent home: W/B 22nd June
- ✓ Sports Day: Thursday 25th June
- ✓ Year 11 Study Leave: Friday 26th June
- ✓ Sixth Form Prom: Friday 3rd July
- ✓ Year 14 Study Leave: Friday 3rd July
- ✓ Transition Days: Wednesday 1st and Wednesday 8th July
- ✓ Parent Consultation Week: Monday 6th July – Friday 10th July
- ✓ Celebration Service: Thursday 16th July At the Dunstable Conference Centre.
- ✓ ALL students return to school: Thursday 3rd September 2026

THANK YOU AND WELCOME!

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Debra, Palesa, Aima, Renee and Bernadatte, who have all supported Weatherfield Academy as Teaching Assistants this academic year. Their hard work, care and commitment have been greatly appreciated across the school.

We are delighted to share that we have now appointed a team of permanent Teaching Assistants who will be supporting the following classes: Capybaras, Oak, Otters, Beech and Herts.

Please join us in welcoming Jayne, Minodora, Kaila, Sara, Rebecca, Julie and Lyndsay to Weatherfield Academy. We are excited to have them join our community and look forward to the positive impact they will bring to our students.

COFFEE MORNING IN HOUGHTON REGIS

Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy (BESA) are hosting a relaxed, informal coffee morning aimed at parents and carers who may be interested in returning to work, gaining new skills, or exploring further education opportunities. It's a chance to meet tutors, ask questions, and find out what adult education courses and employment support are available in a friendly environment.

Event details

What: Bedfordshire Employment & Skills Academy Coffee Morning

Date: 23rd June 2026

Time: 8:30am – 12pm (drop in anytime)

Location: Bedfordshire Employment and Skills Academy, Kingsland Campus, Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5PY

Who it's for: Parents and carers interested in adult learning opportunities and support into employment

Cost: Free – refreshments provided

A TRIP TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE!

We're delighted to share that Mr Young, our Duke of Edinburgh Leader, has spent Wednesday at Buckingham Palace as part of a very special celebration.

The event marks the 70th anniversary of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Hosted by Prince Edward, The Duke of Edinburgh, this incredible occasion recognises the achievements and dedication of young people involved in the DofE programme.

We are proud of Mr Young and the work he does to support and inspire our students through their DofE journeys!



SEND FAMILY FRIENDLY OPEN DAY DUNSTABLE FIRE STATION

Please see a poster below advertising a SEND family friendly open day at Dunstable Fire Station.

When? Saturday 23rd May at 2-4pm

Where? Dunstable Fire Station

More details below!

LOWER SCHOOL CAMPING TRIP

Lower School children had a fantastic time on their residential last week.

Day one took place at Willen Lake, where students enjoyed climbing, taking part in a range of water-based activities, and even braving a jump into the lake. Back at the campsite, students worked together to put up their tents, enjoyed a BBQ, and spent the night sleeping under canvas — with varying amounts of sleep had by all.

Day two began with a cooked breakfast around the campfire, followed by parachute games and den building. Students thoroughly enjoyed trying new activities, building confidence, and creating lasting memories with their friends.

A huge thank you to all the staff involved for giving up their time and helping to make the residential such a positive and memorable experience for everyone.





BEYOND THE BELL



Celebrating Every Milestone!

We are so excited to introduce a brand-new feature in our weekly celebration assembly called 'Beyond the Bell.'

We know that some of the biggest victories happen outside the classroom. Whether it's a breakthrough in communication, a brave new experience, or a moment of pure joy over the weekend, we want to cheer along with you! 'Beyond the Bell' is all about celebrating the unique progress and personal wins that make our pupils so special.

What Counts as a "Success"?

In 'Beyond the Bell', there is no win too small. We want to celebrate things like:

- Trying something new: Visiting a new place or tasting a new food.
- Personal Growth: Using a communication aid at the shops or waiting patiently in a queue.
- Physical Wins: Learning to ride a bike, completing a walk, or joining a local club.
- Creativity & Joy: Building a brilliant Lego tower, helping with some baking, or simply having a "best-ever" day out.



How to Share Your News:

If your child has had a moment this weekend that made you smile, we'd love to include it in our assembly:

- Snap a photo of the moment or the result.
- Write a quick note to the class teacher explaining why it was a "win" for your child.
- Send it in via email to your child's class teacher.
- Leave the rest to us—we can't wait to celebrate these wonderful moments together!

A huge thank you to Euan and Charlotte! Thank you for letting us share your wonderful weekend success with the whole school.

You've done a fantastic job, and we are all so proud of you!



BEDS ENTERPRISE PROJECT

email:
iferguson@weatherfieldacademy.co.uk

KS5

HORTICULTURE HANGING BASKET AND PLANT SALE

Hanging baskets

£15.00

All baskets are planted by students and with a variety of seasonal flowers

Flower pots **£1.00**

- marigold
- busy lizzy
- sunflower
- petunia
- cornflower
- lobelia
- begonia
- lavatera

Veg pots

£1.00

- lettuce
- runner beans
- beetroot



FIDGET TOYS FOR SALE!

Fun • Colourful • Stress Relief



Dragon Eggs - £7



Spiral - £5



Infinity Cube - £4

Why buy these?

- Bright, vibrant colours
- Satisfying textures
- Great for focus & stress relief
- Perfect for school or home

Available from Italy Class



Dunstable
Fire Station

SEND FRIENDLY FAMILY OPEN DAY

Saturday, 23rd May 2026

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

A fantastic afternoon including a robot arm building block challenge, raffle, dress up as a fire fighter, aerial platform on display, a designated quiet room, look around the fire trucks, inflatable Tanka toys, meet the firefighters, refreshments and more!



Refreshments
and Activities



Tours and
Demonstrations



Fire Safety
Advice

Open day is for families with children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) age 5 – 15

Parking available

SNAP PCF SEND Roadshow @ Whipsnade Zoo – Saturday 13th June 2026

Are you looking for SEND support, advice, or information all in one place? Don't miss the upcoming SNAP PCF SEND Roadshow at Whipsnade Zoo! It brings together a fantastic mix of local services that support children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families.

SNAP PCF SEND ROADSHOW 13/06/2026



No need to book in advance this year – just pay at the door.
Make sure your MAX card is valid and bring it with you to get the discounted zoo entry.



Use your
Max Card
ADULT £6
CHILDREN £3
6 TICKETS PER
MAX CARD

About Us

Our Roadshows bring together services that support children/young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and their families, all in one place.

When and Where?

Saturday 13/06/2026

Entry from 9am

SNAP PCF Roadshow open:

9:30am to 12:30pm

Whipsnade Zoo

The River Room (Education Hub)

LU6 2LF

Booking not required

Chat with ...

- 0-19 Children and Family Service
- Autism Beds
- Blue Sky Carer Support
- CAMHS
- Children's Centre
- CWD (Children with Disabilities Service)
- EHC Team
- Fostering and Adoption Service
- FUN (Families United Network)
- HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme)
- Health Deputy DCO (Designated Clinical Officer) for SEND
- Oral Health Improvement (Dental) Team
- Physiotherapy
- SEND Local Offer
- SENDIASS
- Shared lives
- Yes We Can
- Youth Support Service

Survey for SEND Parents

Help shape SEND services in Central Bedfordshire! An Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) SEND Inspection is coming up for our local area (no date yet), and inspectors need to hear directly from families. SNAP Parent Carer Forum has launched a quick survey to ensure your real-life experiences accurately reflect what navigating SEND is like in Central Bedfordshire right now. We will share feedback directly with them when we get to meet the team of inspectors.

Whether it is education support, health services, social care, or communication, your feedback is crucial to help improve local services.

To share your experience scan the QR code on the attached flyer or click here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/B59DBRX>



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Help us to accurately reflect what life is like navigating SEND in Central Bedfordshire in readiness for an imminent OFSTED and CQC SEND Inspection.

Please complete the Parent & Carer Survey

- ✓ Quick and easy to complete
- ✓ Share your experiences
- ✓ Help improve SEND services
- ✓ Make your voice heard to Ofsted

WE NEED

YOUR

FEEDBACK!

Ofsted

Care Quality
Commission



Please give us just 3 minutes of your time, scan the QR code or click on the link below and complete our survey.

THANK YOU!

SNAP PCF – OFSTED Ready Survey

SCAN ME



Inspectors need to **hear** about:

- Education support
- Health services
- Social care support
- Communication with families
- Outcomes for children and young people with SEND

We cannot do this work without your feedback





Support in Special Education for Emotions and Resilience in Schools (SUPERSchools): An Anxiety Observation Study

What's the study about?

Researchers at Aston University would like to understand factors that may be associated with anxiety in children with learning needs. We can use this information to develop meaningful and targeted school anxiety programmes.

We would like to hear from...

Parents/carers of a child who is:

- Aged 4-15 years
- Have a diagnosis of autism or a genetic syndrome associated with autism (e.g. fragile X syndrome, Cornelia de Lange syndrome)
- Attending an SEN School

And a nominated member of school staff, selected by parents/carers who also knows the child well.

What is involved?

Participation is voluntary and choosing not to participate will not impact your relationship with your child's school. We will invite parents (and a school staff member chosen by parents) to complete a questionnaire about their child's anxiety and related behaviours. We will then conduct an observation of the child at the school during their everyday activities. Parents/caregivers and teachers will receive £10 Amazon vouchers as a thank you upon completion of genuine questionnaires in full.

How do I find out more?

Please scan this QR code for study information.
Please contact Jessica Mingins,
j.mingins@aston.ac.uk, or Dr Joanne Tarver, if you
have any questions.



OUR TERMLY FOCUS

Communication:

We are continuing to focus on how we communicate with families and ensure everyone receives the information they need.

- **Getting the balance right:** We are reviewing how often and in what ways we communicate, so that updates are clear, timely, and not overwhelming.
- **Newsletters and class letters via Arbor:** All newsletters and class updates will move to be sent through Arbor to keep everything in one place.
- **Increasing Arbor sign-ups:** Currently, 66% of families are signed up to Arbor. Our aim is to reach 100% so every parent and carer receives important information without delay.
- **Future communication tools:** We are waiting for existing subscriptions to classroom communication tools to end. We are researching for the best long-term communication model for Weatherfield.

Site Developments:

We are making improvements across the school site to enhance safety, comfort, and the overall experience for pupils.

- **Dining area improvements:** Following feedback from the School Council, we are exploring ways to improve the dining space. This includes plans for a refreshed indoor area and an al fresco dining option for use during suitable weather.
- **Front-of-school updates:** Work is underway to improve the meeting room and Reception facilities. Temporary arrangements are currently in place for the school entrance while this work continues. Thank you for your patience.
- **Perimeter fencing:** We are upgrading fencing around the site to ensure students remain safe during the school day and that school resources are secure outside of school hours.

School Structure:

We are continuing to refine our curriculum pathways and reporting processes to support pupils and families.

- **Pathways across the school:** Updated pathways are being finalised and will be shared with parents for the 2026–2027 academic year, giving families a clear understanding of progression through the school.
- **EHCP and annual report improvements:** We have listened to parental feedback and worked closely with staff to revise the templates for EHCP termly reports and annual reports. Please note that EHCP termly reports are statutory and separate from Annual Reports. Our aim is to keep these templates clear, efficient, and genuinely useful for families. We plan to share the updated versions with parents at the beginning of July.

We're using the Arbor Parent App!

See and manage your child's day-to-day school information. Understand their progress, make payments and bookings, and receive in-app messages - all from one app



Log in in seconds with Face ID

Receive in-app messages and reminders on your phone

Make payments, sign up for clubs, and book parents evenings

See your child's progress, attendance, behaviour points, report cards and more

Check your child's calendar, it's always up-to-date

Scan the QR code to download the Arbor Parent App, and use your email address to log in





COFFEE MEETINGS

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Coffee afternoons are usually held monthly, welcoming all parents and carers. They feature a guest speaker – either staff or an external visitor – and offer a chance for parents to connect and chat.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DATES

www.weatherfield.beds.sch.uk/coffee-afternoons



SCAN FOR DATES

OR CONTACT

Miss Donna Ashley at dashley@weatherfieldacademy.co.uk