North Herts Education Support Centre Newsletter

A Message From The Head

As we come to the end of the first half of the summer term, we can reflect on what has been a positive and productive time across the school.

Our Key Stage 4 students have now begun their GCSE exams. This is such an important time for them, and we've been really impressed with the focus and determination they've shown in the lead-up. We wish them all the very best and encourage them to attend revision sessions, stay confident and keep going.

At the same time, our Key Stage 3 students have taken part in a career focused "Discover, Believe, Become Day" organised by ELSA. It was great to see them getting involved, asking questions, and starting to think about their futures in a meaningful way.

We're really proud to share that the school has been shortlisted for the TES School Awards 2026 in the category of Best Alternative Provision. This is a huge achievement and reflects the hard work of both staff and students across the school.

We're also looking forward to our Year 11 Leavers' BBQ on Friday 19th June. This is always a lovely opportunity to celebrate our students, reflect on their time with us, and send them off on the next stage of their journey.

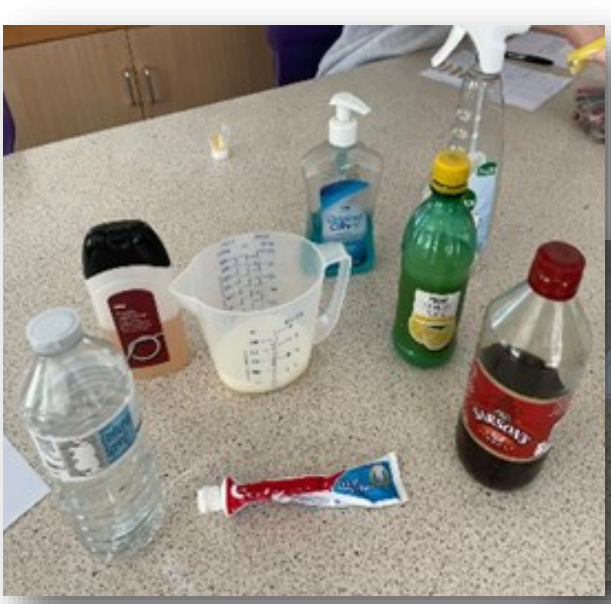
Finally, a big congratulations to Mr Lewis on securing the Head of Centre role from September 2026. We're excited for what's ahead and confident the school will continue to go from strength to strength under his leadership.

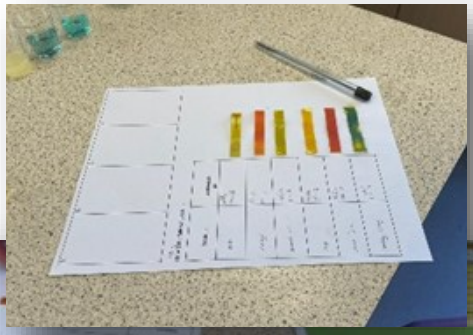
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Deputy Heads
Miss Robinson & Mr Lewis

KS3 SCIENCE

As part of the curriculum this half term, students have been learning about acids and alkalis, their properties and how to recognise them. The students completed an experiment whereby they took several household items, and, using litmus paper, tested to see if these items were acids or alkalis.
The students then recorded the result in their books.





BTEC SPORT STUDENTS CELEBRATE COMPLETION OF COURSEWORK AND EXAMS

BTEC Sport students have reached a significant milestone this term, successfully completing all their required assignments and sitting their final exam. This achievement marks the culmination of months of dedication, perseverance, and consistent hard work across all areas of the course.

Throughout the academic year, students have been challenged to manage a demanding workload, balancing multiple assignments alongside exam preparation. Each unit required not only a strong understanding of theoretical concepts but also the ability to apply knowledge in practical and real-world sporting contexts. From coursework submissions to revision sessions, students have shown remarkable determination to stay on track and meet every deadline.

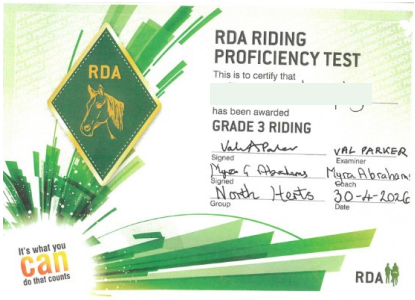
Mr Smith has expressed immense pride in the entire cohort. He praised the students for their dedication and the positive attitude they brought to every lesson and assignment. He recognised the effort each student has put in to complete their coursework to the highest possible standard and commended their determination in preparing for and sitting their exam.

“I am incredibly proud of all the students,” Mr Smith said. “They have worked extremely hard from start to finish, staying focused and committed even when the workload was demanding. They should be pleased with what they have achieved.”

As the students now await their final results, Mr Smith has extended his best wishes to everyone, hoping that they receive grades that truly reflect their hard work, perseverance, and dedication to the BTEC Sport course.

With this chapter complete, students can take pride in their accomplishments and look ahead to their next steps, whether that be further education, training, or careers within the sports industry.

KS3 HORSE RIDING



Every Thursday morning, KS3 students have the amazing opportunity to attend a horse-riding session, completely free of charge, which is run by R.D.A. The students that attend can learn about horse care and equipment as well as walking, trotting and controlling their horse whilst riding.

As each student leaves NHESC to return to mainstream, they are assessed and are awarded a certificate of riding proficiency if they have ridden regularly and improvements have been achieved.

WEDNESDAY PROGRAMME - CATERING

Our Wednesday Programme Catering students recently put their practical skills to the test by preparing delicious summer fruit tarts. As part of the practical students learnt a range of skills pastry making, blind baking, preparing crème pâtissière, and the carefully presentation of their finished products.

The session also linked closely to learning about seasonality, as students explored why summer fruits are at their best at this time of year. By using fresh, seasonal ingredients, they were able to create colourful tarts topped with a variety of fruits such as strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries.

The final tarts looked impressive and tasted just as good, showcasing both the creativity and technical skills of our students.

STUDENTS ENJOY MEMORABLE EVENING AT STEVENAGE FC

Students enjoyed an exciting football experience as they attended the Stevenage FC vs Barnsley FC match on Tuesday 21st April. The evening proved to be a memorable one, with Stevenage FC securing a hard-fought 1–0 victory. The win was particularly significant, helping the club continue their push for a play-off place, a goal they have since successfully secured.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere of matchday football, taking in the excitement from the stands and supporting the home side throughout the game. Highlights of the trip included opportunities for some students to have their photos taken with Stevenage FC players, as well as meeting the club's popular mascot, which added to the overall enjoyment of the experience.

The trip provided a fantastic opportunity for students to engage with live sport, build positive memories, and experience teamwork and community spirit beyond the classroom. Following the success of this visit, plans are already in place to organise a future trip during the 2026/27 season, giving more students the chance to enjoy another Stevenage FC matchday experience.

PSHE – FIRST AID

This half term we were fortunate to be visited by Sam a First Aider. As part of the PSHE curriculum, all students across the school recently took part in an important first aid session that focused on how to respond in an emergency where someone is experiencing heavy bleeding. The lesson explored how serious injuries can occur in a range of situations, including road traffic accidents, dog bites, knife crime and other major incidents, and gave students the knowledge to act quickly and safely while waiting for professional help.

During the session, students learned practical steps to help stem heavy bleeding, including applying firm pressure to a wound, protecting themselves where possible, and knowing how and when to call the emergency services. They also discussed the importance of staying calm, reassuring the injured person, and clearly communicating with emergency responders.

The lesson formed part of the wider PSHE curriculum, helping students develop valuable life skills that could make a real difference in an emergency. By understanding basic first aid techniques, students are better prepared to respond responsibly and confidently should they ever need to assist someone in a critical situation.

CONSTRUCTION

This past half term NHESC reached another important landmark on the journey towards our new home on Briar Patch Lane. Our construction students were lucky to be the first students ever, to set foot on the recently concreted first floor of the school. The students were interested to know which part of the new build housed which classrooms, locker rooms, gym etc. Once we have a roof and internal walls we shall return to the site to get an even better feel for the size and layout of the building. Hopefully we will see how the first fix is progressing. These visits give our students an insight into the types of working environment they may be part of in the not-too-distant future.

KS3 'DISCOVER, BELIEVE, BECOME' DAY

This half term KS3 students took part in an ELSA (Education, Learning, Skills and Achievement) Discover, Believe, Become day. There were four activities throughout the morning with representatives from **Tesco**, **Bowmer & Kirkland, Hi Sci Limited, Crane** and the **UK Government**. One of the tasks was to see how well the students could demonstrate their teamworking skills, working together following a set of instructions from IKEA(!) to build a set of bedside drawers. You can see how focused Mason and Ocean are!

Another of the activities was to interview the visiting adults on their job roles and what routes they took to get there; there was a session on observation skills with some fun activities such as a Murder Mystery clip where 20 different items changed over the course of 2 minutes – at the end, they showed how the crew changed pictures, vases, rugs and even the murder victim!

The final task was to create a building/item of furniture from newspapers and Sellotape. Pandora and Harvey built a replica of Big Ben; Ocean built a floor lamp to accompany the chair built by Mrs Bryant. It was an interesting morning with lots of new skills learnt and no missing pieces from the IKEA drawers! All students received a certificate and lots of positive feedback from the visitors.

Thank you to the representatives from local employers who joined us for the day, particularly Katie from Tesco who was hobbling around having run the London Marathon a couple of days before. The students were particularly interested in her medal she had bought in to show the students. An aspirational day.

Tune into ASD

Planning for Positive Change for your Family

Tuesday 16th June 2026
Time: 7.30-9pm
Venue: The Community Hall
Grace Community Church
Hydean Way, Stevenage
SG2 9XJ

Are you looking to reconnect to your goals and plan for the future? Join us for a workshop that introduces you to positive psychology and person-centred planning to create your own action plan focusing on your current priorities. You will experience using a tool that is often used with children and young people with SEN whilst being supported to complete a planning session yourself.

Facilitated by our highly passionate and legendary consultant **Dr. Felicity Wallace** who combines her expertise as an Education Psychologist, Educator and parent to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area.

Cost: Free

This workshop is suitable for Parents and Carers

For bookings, please email admin@tuneintoasd.com

www.tuneintoasd.com

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KEY INFORMATION

Summer Term 2026 Students Key Dates	
Date	**Details**
Monday 13th April	Student inductions with parents/carers
Thursday 30th April	Year 11 KIT Day
Monday 4th May	Bank Holiday – Centre Closed
Tuesday 5th May	**EXAMS START**
Tuesday 5th May – Monday 15th June	KS4 GCSE Exams
Friday 22nd May	KS3 Celebrations
Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May	Half Term
Monday 1st June	First day back for Staff and Students
Friday 19th June	Year 11 Leavers BBQ
Wednesday 24th June	Exams Contingency Day
Friday 26th June	INSET DAY – Centre closed to Students
Friday 3rd July	KS3 & Year 10 KIT Day
Thursday 9th July	Secondary Schools – Transition Day
Tuesday 22nd July	KS3 & KS4 Celebrations – Last academic day for students
Wednesday 23rd July	INSET DAY – Centre closed to Students

GCSE Results Day – Thursday, 20 August 2026

Time: 10:00 – 12:00

On Thursday 20 August, we are delighted to welcome our Year 11 students back to the centre to collect their final GCSE results.
Year 10 students who sat the **English Literature** exam are also invited to collect their results on this day.
We wish all our students the very best of luck on results day and every success as they move on to the next exciting chapter of their journeys.

Further information:
For guidance on what happens after receiving your exam results, please visit:

What happens after you have taken your exams or assessments - GOV.UK

The school day starts promptly at 8:45am. If you wish for your child to have breakfast, last serving time is at 8:40am. Please ensure your child arrives on time.

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North Herts Education Support Centre

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HFL Education WELLBEING QUALITY MARK.