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Dear Parents and Carers,

At the beginning of the New Year I would like to share with you some initiatives and important actions in the area of the students' personal development and enrichment:

As you know our curriculum is designed to provide all students with opportunities that maximises *to make* individual progress and enables all students to achieve their full potential. We share an uncompromised ambition to support their skill development to '**learn for life**'. At Breakspeare this means that in all key stages each and all of our students have opportunities to develop their academic skills, functional everyday living skills, communication and independence. We don't compare our students' achievements and progress against other students but rather continuously evaluate and monitor individual progress.

Our **enrichment programme** comprises of individual opportunities to access - specific therapies (such as rebound, music, art, play and dog,); out of school activities (sporting events, music events, school trips, work experience, community visits; assembly programme; workshops, visitors and productions that are brought to school and specific pedagogical programmes such as music, PE, yoga, horticulture or intensive interaction. During their school years all students benefit from a wide range of age appropriate enrichment opportunities. Please note that most of our therapy programmes are distributed based on referrals and individual needs. Funding for these activities comes from the curriculum budget, pupil premium or sport premium.

During the 2020 spring term the **Bamboozle Theatre Company** has already delivered a workshop 'Dragons' for our PMLD students. This amazing workshop featured live music, puppetry and multisensory experiences. The Bamboozle Company will deliver a 'Materials Project' for C 5 and C6 students next week over a two day period. We haven't organised a two day project with Bamboozle before and both the students and the staff are looking forward to learning with the theatre team. In March we have invited Bamboozle to deliver a workshop for our ASD learners. The workshop 'Pulse' is an original story inspired by sounds of the Deep South and other-worldly atmospheric experiences of the American Dust Bowl.

The Bamboozle Theatre Company productions and the associated unique learning opportunities are quite expensive but in our experience the quality of their productions is always to the highest standards. We cover the cost of these productions partially from the school curriculum budget and partially from identified charitable donations.

The entire school will be able to participate in the re-enactment of the story of '**Cinderella**' on 6th February, with **M&M Productions**. Then at the end of April or the beginning of May **Electric Umbrella** will perform with students contributing and playing a major role in creating music together.

The enrichment opportunities described above enhance our students' personal development; their self-esteem, self-expression and provide them with opportunities to experience new things together. Equally important elements in supporting the students' personal development and individuality are their class based opportunities to learn about the **cultural diversity that they encounter in their own class**. We truly value our students' diverse



cultural and ethnic backgrounds and celebrate the richness that this brings to our school community. The teachers may contact you to ask for some ideas (artefacts, celebrations etc.) to bring this aspect of learning alive.

We are re-establishing the '**Students' School Council**'. All classes will have their representative on the school council which will meet once per term as a lunch time club. The main aim of the school council is to provide a forum for students to bring suggestions about issues that our students regard to be important. It is about listening to the students' voice. The council is supported by teacher Tasmin Ali. Our regular lunch time **clubs** are; wheelchair dance, choir and eco-club. We are looking forward to the choir performing to the whole school towards the end of the academic year. Our new, "Sunflower Choir" performed with Parmiters' School at our traditional Christmas concert in December and they were absolutely fantastic.

2020 is 'Hertfordshire Year of Culture'; this is to showcase Hertfordshire as a county of creative and cultural opportunity. The campaign is being led by the Hertfordshire Association of Cultural Officers (HACO). The objectives are to

- encourage different organisations and individuals to get involved
- celebrate, share and explore Hertfordshire's arts, culture and heritage
- enable access and participation in arts, culture and heritage
- increase wellbeing and sense of belonging through the arts, culture and heritage
- create new partnerships

Breakspeare School is joining the campaign and we will organise 3-4 opportunities for our students to join different themes of the campaign.

The Sunflower Federation has been given ownership of some pieces of art from the Hertfordshire County Council's **art collections**. These will be displayed in both of our federation schools during the academic year so that they can be appreciated by the whole community.

I would like to remind you about parent liaison:

Some of you may remember that we would like to establish a **Parent Working Party** in the school. The purpose of the working party is to

- provide a new forum for school development
- to strengthen liaison with the key stakeholders e.g. parents/carers and the leadership of the federation

The first meeting at Breakspeare is on Friday 30th January 10 am. Welcome!

I would like to discuss with you our increasing student numbers, the school environment and the development of the working party.

Please remember to mark in your calendars the **FAB ('Friends at Breakspeare')** meetings:

- Fri 28th February – coffee morning 10 am
- Fri 20th March – coffee morning 10 am
- 15th May – FAB and coffee morning 10 am
- 17th July – coffee morning 10 am

Coffee mornings are organised to provide an opportunity for parents to meet at school and the FAB meeting is to discuss about fundraising and the use of parents/staff association funds.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns about your child's school experience please contact myself, the deputy or teachers without delay. We have developed strong partnerships with our parents and carers and it is really important to maintain open communication with you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Merja