

Dear parents and carers,

The summer term has not been one we could have imagined. I am so incredibly proud of all of the services and those that have shared this experience with us. The resilience of our learners, staff and families has been astounding and I thank everyone for their support and efforts.

Prior to lockdown the schools and pupils were very much on track for another successful year. From winter productions to the hatching of chicks, pupils had a range of opportunities to demonstrate their skills, knowledge and understanding.

We are all very much looking forward to returning in September, to what may well be a new normal. We have some exciting plans to develop our services further and continue to build on our outstanding practice.

We have a number of new Tutors that have started across this term and others that will be joining us in September, we are keen to get them working with our learners and supporting them in their new role. We also have a number of new Allied Health Professionals, completing our Therapy Team, each with a range of experiences that will only strengthen the therapy provision.

Next term we will have more Teachers delivering group sessions as we look to further embed our philosophy of just enough support and continue to strengthen independence with all our learners. This also means Tram House will have a cohort of pupils attending South Thames College daily.

We will also be introducing the role of the Advanced Skills Practitioner, who will be instrumental in the delivery of Tutor training.

Park House and Tram House have exciting new development plans, that focus on the next steps for our pupils. We are looking forward to beginning this next phase in the schools development and will be sure to keep you updated about our progress as we move through the year.

Have a very enjoyable summer, stay safe and we will see you all again in September.



Kieran Bird

Executive Head of BeyondAutism Schools





Term Dates

Autumn 2020

INSET days 2nd – 8th September

Term starts: Wednesday 9th September

Half Term: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Term Ends: Friday 18th December at 12:30pm

Spring 2021

INSET day 4th January

Term starts: Tuesday 5th January

Half Term: Monday 15th February– Friday 19th February

Term Ends: Wednesday 31st March at 12:30pm



Admissions

Since September 2019 we have had 23 new pupils across Park House School and Tram House School. Informal assessments are currently on hold, but we have had 38 referrals from different Local Authorities since March so are looking forward to running these again hopefully in September 2020. Park House is now full for September and Tram House has an admission number of 50, so we are working hard to fill these spaces.

Staffing and Recruitment

We've had a number of staff join the organisation since Easter! A big welcome to the following ABA Tutors...

Kimberley Ototahor, Tryphena Amfo-Brobbe, Naomi Buck, Emily Dawson, Maria Pia Diehl, Olha Malkiv, Maryam Shirwani, Anisoara Vasalache, Hanae Kinani-Alaoui, Irina Sorokina, Amanda Mitchell, Codi Hardcastle, Benjamin Martin, Rosanna Spoto, Leonie Carpenter, Haniyyah Mia, Priscilla Duncan, Mayra Mendez, Gurjinder Lindsay, Susan Davies, Ka Hei Cheuk, Allie Scott, Amy Trudinger, Lisa Frending, Moyosore Samuel and Maria Constantini.

We've also said hello to the following Post-19 ABA Tutors...

Sharon Pryce, Ajija Oweh, Anass Nazmi and Lidia Amanuel.

We also welcome Karolina Gburczyk (ABA Supervisor) and Ewelina Rubach (Cleaner).

The HR team has some new faces. Ian Hunter joins as HR Director, with Agnes Guzak joining as Recruitment Specialist and Tom Delahaye as HR Administrator and Data Lead.

We are saying goodbye to the following ABA Tutors this term...

Savannah Woods, Michael Gray, Conor Lusted, Gemma Stone, Camilla Mills and Sepehr Dashtipour.

We also say goodbye to Louisa Aghedo (HR & Recruitment Advisor) and Chandra Sampath (HR Administrator).

All the best to Katie Moriarty (Post-19 ABA Supervisor) who has gone on maternity leave.

We wish everyone the best in their future endeavours!



BeyondAutism Podcast Series

Visit our website to see a range of podcasts which cover a number of topics underpinned by ABA. Hear our staff and guest speakers discuss research in the field of ABA, the practice it inspired at BeyondAutism, and the positive impact seen on the lives of the individuals involved.



Sports Day

The schools held a very different version of sports day this year. Rather than using the local park, Park House held socially distanced events in the playground with some pupils participating from home! Tram House held a much smaller than usual event over the course of a week in the local park. Whilst it wasn't our usual big celebration, the pupils and staff enjoyed holding an alternative version of the event and we managed to recreate some of the pupils' favourite events in the playground.



Graduation

Like sports day it wasn't the usual pomp and ceremony for this year's graduation. We are so proud of all of our learners who are graduating this term, all have made tremendous progress and we can't wait to see this continue in the next stage of their education.



A small ceremony was held in school for pupils that were in attendance to celebrate all of their achievements!

Park House summer party

Just before half-term the pupils at Park House had an afternoon of summer fun where they enjoyed playing with their peers in the playground.



2020

Tram House Shop

With pupils currently unable to go out into the community and attend their work placements as well as other usual trips, this term learners have set up the Tram House shop!

Going out into the community presents a range of learning opportunities such as communication, counting and many more. It is important to continue to develop these skills whilst there is not as much access to the community.

The mini-enterprise is completely run by pupils, from designing the signage for the shop, to setting up and taking payments, everything is learner-led. Other pupils can visit the shop and purchase items like books or games that they want to use throughout the day. When learners have been baking there is also the chance for pupils and staff to buy baked goods.

The shop, run by a group of Sixth Formers, is open for business every day and has been busy non-stop.



Rainbows

At the start of lockdown the pupils took part in the rainbow hunt which was taking off around the world. They decorated rainbows and placed them in the windows of the schools for other children to find on their walks whilst getting their daily exercise.



Sport England grant

National Lottery funding from Sport England has provided £7,400 towards the costs of specially adapted trikes and safety equipment, allowing our staff to spend time with each pupil honing skills and raising confidence. There is a suitably sized trike for everyone, and these specialist trikes improve coordination and proficiency, improving mental well-being and raising self-esteem in a way that is essential for young children at this age.



The experience and practice will bring an opportunity for each child to eventually transition from three wheels to two. Carefully supervised trips outside of the playground will see our pupils having the opportunity to ride in the park giving a sense of open space and independence.

2020

A word from the charity

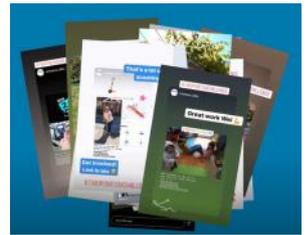
Tracie Linehan, CEO

It has been uplifting to hear about our pupils – how well they are doing at home, how engaged they are when in school. It has also been greatly appreciated to receive all the positive feedback from families as we have navigated our way through this term, in unprecedented times. When everyone is back in September we will be launching the next 5-year strategy and working to reach as many people with autism as possible by delivering quality education and training services, underpinned by ABA. I hope your summer is restful and look forward to seeing you next term.

Recent funding successes and updates

The 2.6 challenge

Our students, parents, staff, and friends of the charity really blew us away with their wonderful support for the 2.6 Challenge back in April. Those involved raised a massive £8000(!) at a time when everyone has been facing extraordinary challenges. We are so grateful for your commitment and generosity.



Events

As you'll know we had to cancel our Quiz Night this year. In its place our Patron Jane Moore created a quiz pack for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to one of our Park House School ABA Tutors, Rhianna, and 'Need 2 Succeed' for using this quiz to host their own fundraising night and raising £740!

We'd also like to thank our wonderful Vitality 10k supporters: Louise Wade, Sarah Kaikini, Peak Han Lee, Ewa Polska, Camilla Tondelli and Abdi Mohamed. Despite the event's postponement, we appreciate all the training and preparation that would have gone into the event – your efforts have not gone unnoticed. We are hopeful that the 10k may still take place later this year or early next year. Similarly, the Royal Parks Half Marathon, due to take place in October has been postponed until April 2021 – thank you to those that have signed up. There are still places available if you or someone you know would like to take part!

Donate your commute



This term we launched a short regular giving campaign 'donate your commute' in an attempt to grow our small family of regular givers. Regular donations are so valuable to BeyondAutism, providing us with a reliable source of income that helps us to plan ahead and ensure the long-term sustainability of our vital work and services. If you think that you – or someone you know – could help in this way, please do! Just a few pounds a month can make a big difference to what we are able to achieve in the long run.

Staff appreciation

The staff committee, in collaboration with the staff teams, have bought fruit boxes for all the staff as well as an array of treats, luxuries and new equipment for the staffrooms to benefit everyone. Thank you again for your generous contributions in thanking the staff team for all that they do! We would like to thank our key workers for keeping the services open as much as possible throughout the crisis. We hope you will agree that they are all extraordinary.

Voluntary income – where does your money go?

This year we have used donations to purchase everything from story sacks, iPads, virtual reality headsets, tablets, communication software licenses, new smart boards, playground equipment, accessible bikes and even a minibus! The children's skiing and horseriding lessons are also generously funded by voluntary income as are many of the enrichment projects and new resources purchased across the services.

Your donations have helped to fund our vital Early Years service (run entirely through donations), to establish an employment project, to launch a Research and Learning Hub, and to broaden awareness of ABA (to name but a few). We simply could not exist without your support and your donations have had a direct impact in everything that BeyondAutism has been able to do.

As a fundraising team, we know that there will be challenges ahead for our charity as a result of the pandemic – as there will be for many charities across the UK. If you want to get involved in supporting us, do get in touch. Thank you again. **Mike & Pippa**