Dear Parents,

It has been another exciting term at Rainbow School. We have welcomed many visitors to the school this term, including our consultant Dr Vince Carbone, joined by Carole Roxburgh. Dr Carbone spent three days at Rainbow School, including two days observing and feeding back on our ABA/VB programmes and teaching. We were delighted to hear his positive feedback on the work being completed by our pupils, designed by our ABA Supervisors and class teams. Dr Carbone delivered a one day whole school INSET on managing problem behaviour, which everyone found informative and engaging. On a termly basis, Carole Roxburgh continues to offer external supervision for our ABA Supervisors.

Thank you to all the parents and pupils who donated food and other items for our annual Foodbank Appeal. As always, our parent community were extremely generous and all items donated have been delivered to those who need them most.

This term we have welcomed many new faces to the Rainbow School community, including Emma Price, our new Head of Pastoral Care. Emma will be deputising in our absence, but also leading on Safeguarding across both schools and supporting parents and pupils through the Education, Health & Care Plans and Annual Reviews.

This term also saw the launch of our Post19 provision, in partnership with Lambeth College and based in Yarrow Housing. The first term has been a huge success and we are delighted with the progress and provision in place. We would welcome anyone interested in learning more about our Post19 plans to get in touch with the school directly.

We have been working closely with staff during November on our proposed restructure consultation. 97 members of staff were involved, and we met with 19 parents in total. The process has been a positive experience for the school, and the feedback has been invaluable. We hope to begin the proposed changes in January, following an implementation plan to ensure its success. Our parent community will be receiving ongoing information regarding the progress of our proposed restructure.

We are all eagerly awaiting the annual Christmas Production, led by Phillippa Pickering and Richard LeRoy. This year’s production is the Lion King, and will take place on the last day of term at Thomas’ School. We are excited to see our school community come together to celebrate the end of term. Pupils have continued to attend our weekly assemblies, now split into Lower and Upper School. Our class teams have led on a different theme each week, and have included Black History Week, Diwali, and Friendships.

Even though we have welcomed many talented new members of staff this term, we unfortunately will be saying goodbye to some colleagues who are moving on to new opportunities. We wish them all the best for their futures and thank them for the hard work and commitment they have shown to our pupils.

We hope you and your family have an enjoyable Christmas break, and we look forward to seeing what all our pupils can achieve in the new year.

Kind regards,

Kieran Bird
Head of Lower School

David Anthony
Head of Upper School
Staffing and recruitment

Welcome to... Emma Price, Head of Pastoral, Kieran Bird, Head of Lower School, Michelle Frangos, Qualified Teacher, Emma Bowell, PA to Heads of School, Pippa Day, School Administrator and Rachael Burke, EA to CEO.

We have had a number of ABA Tutors start over the course of the term, including Kirby-Ann Mead, Athena Sideri, Olivia Whiteford, Nicola Jakeman, Rhys Owen, Hannah Deakins, Chelsea Maloney, Serena Salamino, Dilan Dalikiran, Eleni Tontikidou, Tamara Rubio Cires, Valentina Petteno, Laura Sala, Filipa Oliveira Costa, Teresa Soto Renne, Rosie Benge, Chloe Presland, Anna Garcia Barben, Maria Maneja, Catrin Price, Catuxa Barrero, Lisa Roberts, Thalia Evans, Rachael Holomad, Nancy Deilami, Ina Rubil-Smith, Vitoria Viana, Zakiyah Hussain, Josuhe Madera, Vanessa Gandarinho, Kmaria George, Mischa Airebamien, Olivia Dalby and Olga Fernandez Nunez.

Andy Whyte, HR Advisor, will also join the HR team in January 2017. Good luck to Sofia Rey who has just gone on maternity leave!

Goodbye to... Philippa Pickering, Ina Perera, Russell Irving, Mikaela Green, Carolina Rodriguez, Aimee Ward, Katherine Mendoza, Rachel Framp, Laura Ghergut, Cristina De Carluccio and Filipa Nogueira. Thank you to each and every one of you for all your hard work and good luck in your future endeavours!
Rainbow School's Second Annual Careers Fair

Rainbow School held its second Careers and Pathway Event on Tuesday, 6th December 2016. The evening was a great opportunity for parents and pupils to meet with a range of services, organisations and educational providers who support young people through Post14 and beyond.

We were delighted to be able to share more information about our plans with regards to our Post19 provision, in partnership with Yarrow Housing and Lambeth College. If you were unable to attend the event and you would like further details please contact David Anthony, Head of Upper School: davidanthony@beyondautism.org.uk

We were grateful to Carshalton College, Roots & Shoots, Sarah Ziegel, Orchard Hill College, Platform 1 (Camden Society), Ambitious College, Home from Home Care, Heart and Soul, Yarrow Housing and St Piers School & College for hosting stands at the event.

Hellen Okello, our independent careers advisor was also at the event to meet parents and offer advice. Hellen will be returning to the school to complete follow up work in the new year.

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend this year, and we look forward to be able to build on the success of this year’s event.

Here are some useful contacts:

Emma Price, Head of Pastoral Care & EHCP Coordinator in school: emmaprice@beyondautism.org.uk
Gwen Lambert, Link Coordinator at Carshalton College: Gwendolyn.Lambert@carshalton.ac.uk
Roots & Shoots: admin@rootsandshoots.org.uk
Sarah Ziegel: https://sarahjziegel.wordpress.com/
Orchard Hill College: enquiries@orchardhill.ac.uk
Platform 1 (Camden Society): http://www.thecamdensociety.co.uk/home
Ambitious College: http://www.ambitiouscollege.org.uk/
Home from Home Care: http://www.homefromhomecare.com/
Heart and Soul: http://www.heartnsoul.co.uk/
Yarrow Housing: http://www.yarrowhousing.org.uk/
St Piers School & College: https://college.youngepilepsy.org.uk/

Dr Vince Carbone Visit

In October, Dr Vince Carbone spent 3 days at Rainbow School. His time was spent consulting on programmes in place for students he visited during his last visit. He also looked at vocal programmes for particular pupils, met with staff and led on a whole school INSET on Reducing Problem Behaviour. Vince's time was useful and instructive, He was very pleased with how we are supporting our young people and the programmes we have in place. His consulting was valuable in reinforcing the work being carried out within the school and consolidating plans made by Supervisors and the Speech and Language Team.
Red Class

This term Red Class have had their classroom set up by our newly Qualified Teacher Matt! The water play area has been a favourite as has the sand pit. Red Class have worked hard on improving their Maths skills using these interactive areas. Our theme for the first autumn half term was ‘at the shops’ and we took a trip to KidZania to practice spending money on activities around the town, and once it ran out the pupils had to earn it back by getting a job! Another favourite at KidZania was the disco – all of the pupils loved dancing on the light up multi-coloured floor to their favourite songs.

Red Class have thoroughly enjoyed their trips to Latchmere leisure centre to practice their swimming skills and all pupils have worked on their independent dressing skills as well as their confidence in the pool. During our art activities the pupils made a Jungle themed display, they particularly enjoyed making the 3D tiger’s head and different sized and shaped leaves! To decorate the leaves and tiger head the pupils used sponges, tissue paper, paint and spray.

The new playground equipment has made the playground an exciting place to play, especially the trampoline and swing set. The pupils are practicing waiting their turn for the slide and working on interacting with their peers whilst on the swing.

Orange Class

Our theme this term is the jungle. Orange Class have loved exploring the jungle themed corridor in Garratt Lane pressing the animal sound buttons and feeding our mini beasts beneath the vines. We have thought about all of the different animals that live there and created masks of them in art so we can role play and make our own jungle in Orange Class.

Orange Class have really enjoyed their trips to the Vauxhall city farm to ride the horses - improving their balance and coordination whilst gaining confidence when interacting with the animals.

We took a class trip to KidZania and all of the pupils had the opportunity to experience different occupations and earn a wage to spend on different activities around the mini city. The disco was a particular favourite, with some of the students practicing their DJ skills and others showing off their moves on the dance floor. Learning to take off, fly and land in a replica plane was another Orange Class favourite with pupils passing their pilot test.

Orange Class have worked hard on all their academic targets both individually and when working in group work. We have focused our Maths groups around counting objects out from a larger set and all of the pupils have progressed well in this area. Orange Class have been looking at phonics in English Group and the pupils have searched the school for items that start with our sound of the week and completed our sound of the week board.
Highlights of the term

Green Class

It might be getting colder and darker as winter draws in but Green Class have had a great autumn term. We have been lucky enough to go on two trips – firstly to the Magic Garden at Hampton Court to celebrate William winning the Jack Petchey award at the end of last school year, and then to Gambado’s Play Centre to celebrate Mia winning the most recent Jack Petchey award. We are very proud of them both for winning these awards, as we are of all the students in the class. Both trips were real treats for the class and a great success.

When we went to the Magic Garden everyone in the class chose one or two things that they liked to eat and made it into a shopping list. We then went to buy the food from the shop, so we could all have picnic together on the trip. We had a selection of items including sausage rolls, fruit, crisps, juice and biscuits. Getting to use the self-service checkout was exciting!

On our second trip to Gambado soft play centre most of the students purchased their lunch from the café there. We made a picture menu which we took up to the cashier and each student pointed to the pictures of the items they wanted to order, then gave the cashier the money.

It hasn’t all been going on trips though – we have also been working hard and having fun in school. During Black History Week the African Drumming was a firm favourite with Green Class, and we also made a delicious Kuku Paka coconut curry in Food Tech. Most of the class tried it, and although some of them didn’t want to have more it was fun to make and taste. We are looking forward to the new term and the experiences it will bring!

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Yellow Class

This term, Yellow Class have been busy learning about the jungle and learning the songs for The Lion King production. Some of the pupils in Yellow Class have been working really hard on learning their lines for the play, whilst others have been learning the songs as a group. During art, we made our own giraffe masks for our song, ‘They Live in You’.

Yellow Class participated in their first ever vote. During a special assembly each pupil was given the choice to vote for various playground equipment! The whole lower school voted for a trampoline, a swing set and a new bike!

Yellow Class also participated in Black history week, one of the activities was to make African fruit salad. One pupil helped opened a can of peaches, some peeled oranges and some were learning to cut the bananas. All pupils were able to make their very own African fruit salad and eat it!

Yellow Class have enjoyed their weekly horse riding trips to Vauxhall City Farm. This has been great fun for all, we all especially love trotting and feeding the animals around the farm.

A very memorable moment for Yellow Class was the opportunity to go to KidZania! We all had a fantastic time, earning KidZania money by working hard as builders, estate agents, DJ’s, rock climbers, chefs, and many more! Some chose to be shoppers at the supermarket and others boogied in the disco. Yellow Class had a blast at KidZania!
Light Blue Class

Light Blue Class have had an excellent autumn term. In the first half term we looked at the topic ‘at the shops’, learning all about different types of shops in our community, and focusing on money skills in maths. In the second half term we have looked at ‘the jungle’ as our topic, and everyone has enjoyed learning about all the different animals that you see in the jungle. In art we have made toucans, snakes and trees that can be seen decorating our classroom. This theme also ties in well with the Christmas production of the lion king, and all of Light Blue Class have been practicing hard and are looking forward to the show.

We recently went on a trip to Gambardo soft play centre in Chelsea, where we got the opportunity to take the train. Everyone loved having the freedom to explore the big soft play area including the giant slide and ball pit, and enjoyed choosing and buying their own lunch in the cafe. We also loved driving dodgems and bumping into our classmates, and had fun spinning on the teacups ride. This term we have also been practicing taking the bus on our weekly trips to the lower school assembly at Garratt Lane, and have also enjoyed trips out to swimming at Latchmere leisure centre.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to school starting again in the new year.

Dark Blue Class

Dark Blue Class have had a great autumn term. In the first half term we enjoyed ‘Black History week’ and took part in a range of activities including poster making, making drums and sampling different foods. We also looked at a topic called ‘all about me’, where the class all looked at making choices, things we like and talking about birthdays and having a few birthday parties with lots of dancing! The class all helped lead an assembly for the whole Upper School where everyone presented pictures of things they like and told everyone their birthdays as part of a presentation. There was even some singing solos which everyone enjoyed! In the second half of term everyone went on a visit to the shops and practiced using money. Everyone enjoyed this little visit a lot and bought something they liked. We also went on a trip to Battersea Park Zoo at the end of the term where fun was had by all. We got to see lots of different animals and enjoyed finding about where they live.

This term we have also been going swimming at Latchmere Leisure centre where everyone has been working hard on their skills in the pool and having a lot of fun. In science group some of the class have also been learning lots about the seasons as well as animals and their babies. It has been a great term of learning and progress in Dark Blue Class, we hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to another great term in the new year.
Indigo Class

Indigo Class have had an excellent term. This term we have focused on two different topics: ‘In our community’ and ‘Signs of autumn’. Indigo Class have worked hard during their art sessions to create a fantastic art display about the different signs of autumn, presenting their work in the class assembly. As part of Indigo’s ADSAN qualification they took a trip to the local shop, making a choice of items to buy, learning to identify money and pay for their items.

This half term pupils took a visit to Battersea Park Zoo to generalise the signs and symbols found in the community. They also enjoyed visiting lots of the different animals at the zoo learning about what they like to eat and the habitats they live in. Indigo Class have also had special visits this term taking part in an African drumming session and music therapy. Indigo Class have had a great autumn term, learning lots of new skills and are looking forward to the holidays and starting again in the new year!

Violet Class

Violet Class have had a fantastic start to the academic year with a whole new range of activities filling their weeks. Some of Violet Class have started skiing lessons this term at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead. The instructors are fantastic and all students have made amazing progress putting on all of their ski gear, using the travellator to ascend the slope and then skiing down avoiding many obstacles! Having lunch in the ski lodge restaurant is an added bonus!

At the end of this term Violet Class went on a class trip to Hyde Park ‘Winter Wonderland’ where we all went on a rather jumpy ride, went to see Zippo’s Christmas circus and enjoyed a ride on the mouse trap rollercoaster!

This year Violet Class have joined the ‘Rainbow Café’ catering team. ‘Rainbow Café’ serves between 25-35 staff members every week and Violet Class have been cooking up a storm! Students take a trip to Asda in the morning to buy all of their ingredients and then cook and serve pasta with bolognaise, cheese sauce and salad. The cheese sauce has proven to be an absolute hit with staff and students alike!

Violet Class have made exceptional progress this term and I am sure this will continue come the new year.
6th Form 1

This term has been very exciting for Sixth Form 1. Our focus has been on community participation including working on road safety, shopping targets and being able to identify important community signs and helpers.

The Sixth Form 1 students have been attending college in Carshalton where they have had the opportunity to work on their gardening skills for the first half of the autumn term and wood work for the second half.

Some of the students in Sixth Form 1 have been working towards an ASDAN qualification in 'Personal social development'. This term they focused on the module 'making the most out of leisure time'. They learnt about a variety of different things to do with their leisure time and were able to decide what they liked and disliked. They have learnt how to formulate opinions on food and common themes and went out for brunch – a highlight of the course.

This term Sixth Form 1 has been running Rainbow Café on a Tuesday in rotation with Violet Class. They have been learning about different ingredients and how to follow instructions to make Fajitas which are then served to staff members.

Sixth Form 1 wishes everyone a Happy Christmas and are looking forward to the new term!

6th Form 2

6th Form 2 has had an eventful term filled with food, work experience, and even a little bit of pumpkin carving. Nando's, which has always been a popular outing for both staff and students, was a continued success this term, where we were joined by our Speech and Language Therapist, Clodagh, and our Occupational Therapist, Aimee. Between enjoying some wings, they were assessing and implementing SaLT and OT programs within the community. This included introducing visual menus, and using cutlery correctly, which has been a great success. We are also thrilled to have begun a work experience placement with Marks and Spencer, where one of our students has been learning the realities of the working world! He has been learning to follow his managers' instructions and work with the M&S staff to stack shelves and price products. Other work experience placements, such as The Stepping on Out card shop, and the Camden Societies Platform 1 and New Horizon's café, have also been rewarding experiences for our students. They have been working on a variety of skills from preparing restaurant quality food, to creating Christmas cards on sale at this year's Career's Fair.

Roots and Shoots gardening centre in Kennington has also been a fantastic opportunity to learn in a more relaxed environment about horticulture. This term we have done everything from pumpkin carving to learning about and planting our own daffodil and tulip bulbs. As the students have become more comfortable within Roots and Shoots they have also become more independent, taking instructions from the teacher, with the tutors as support only. Finally, our students have gone from being former Rainbow Café employees to being its very satisfied customers! This term the students from 6th Form 2 have been enjoying the culinary delights of the Rainbow Café, where the students from 6th Form 1 and Violet Class prepare lunch on a weekly basis. All in all it has been a very fruitful term with all students and staff earning a lengthy Christmas break!
A word from the charity

Tracie Linehan, CEO

We are one year into our 5 year strategy Empowering People, Launching Lives and making good progress. We’ve been busy continuing to raise funds for the new Tram House building; we’ve welcomed new staff and said farewell to others; we have launched Friends of BeyondAutism and continue to increase our reach to both people wanting our services and supporters alike. We are advancing plans for our Post-19 provision and developing a potential Early Years pilot. Your ongoing support and feedback is invaluable along this exciting journey. I hope you have an enjoyable holiday period and I look forward to catching up with you in 2017.

Friends of BeyondAutism

You don’t have to run a marathon to raise funds for BeyondAutism. Why not host a fundraising event instead and involve your friends, family or colleagues?

Friends of BeyondAutism is a brand new scheme through which anyone at all can help support our work, in their own way, and at any level. The idea behind Friends of BeyondAutism is simple: choose something you love, and then do it in aid of our charity – not only to raise much-needed funds, but also to help spread the word about the work that we do.

Whether you want to hold a Bake-Off at work, have a coffee morning at home, host a quiz at your local or skydive with your mates, our team will help you to turn your great idea into a fantastic fundraiser for BeyondAutism. The possibilities are endless, and every pound raised makes a difference.

For more information, please visit the charity website or contact Dan on 020 3031 9705.

Tram House Appeal

I am very pleased to announce that we have so far raised over £872,000 through our Tram House fundraising appeal.

This past term, we were grateful to receive some significant funding from trusts and foundations, contributions from corporate partners, as well as sponsorship raised via the Royal Parks Half Marathon and our Freefall Halloween abseil event – many thanks to all parents who took part!

We will be working hard over the rest of the school year to raise the final £628,000 needed to complete the project.

Upcoming fundraising events – Save the date!

London Marathon – 23rd April: Tracie Linehan and Rachel Turner are both running in the 2017 London Marathon – save the date so you can come and cheer them on!

Quiz with a Twist – 10th May: Our annual quiz night fundraiser is back for the 6th year running at the Wandsworth Civic Suite, hosted by quizmaster extraordinaire Jane Moore! Tickets are £35 each (tables of 10) and include a prosecco reception and gourmet fish and chip supper. Ring Dan on 020 3031 9705 to book your tickets!

Nightrider London – 10th June: 100km or 60km route cycling around London at night time, starting and finishing at the Olympic Park, and taking in the major sights of the capital. We have 10 places available, call 020 3031 9705 to find out more and book your place.