



Headteacher's Welcome

Dear parents and carers,

The start of the academic year has been full of educational visits, with staff arranging some fantastic opportunities for students (Forest schools - Sam G and Sam M, 'Into film' cinema festival (Sam G), Places of worship throughout term 1 (Danielle), and the annual trip to Bluewater for Christmas shopping. The work that goes into arranging these additional opportunities for students is greatly appreciated (as additional planning is required) by myself and the students.

Term 2 has seen a prolonged cold snap which has also coincided with the usual increase of seasonal colds and illnesses. For most this is a temporary blip, whereby we'd expect to see attendance sharply rise again in the new year and onset of Spring. Every school day carries two registration marks, so five days absent equates to ten sessions missed. The national target for attendance is 96% - Blue Skies currently has 71%, far short of where we'd like to be. With fewer students on roll, every student's absence has a greater impact.

For some however, increased absence significantly increases the risk of being categorised as NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training) when they reach post 16 education. In 2022, Medway recorded 29 SEND students classified as NEET or unknown. From our annual reviews, most parents and students have begun to look ahead and ensure that the EHCP is utilised effectively. We will continue deliver an effective, relevant curriculum, preparing students for the world of work through personal development.

To all students, parents and staff, have a well-deserved rest, a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and I'll see you all raring to go once again in January 2023!

Graham Richards



Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Graham Richards - Headteacher - Lead DSL

Sam Gracey - Senior Teacher - Deputy DSL

Jo Higgins - Proprietor - Overseeing
Safeguarding

NSPCC: 0800 800 5000

safeguarding@blueskiesschool.co.uk

Diary Dates:

09/01/2023 - students return to school

Birthday Wishes:

02/01/2023 - Sam G

05/01/2023 - Danielle

06/01/2023 - Muhaymin

25/01/2023 - Natalie and Aiste

**Happy Birthday to you, from all at Blue Skies
School!**

Highlights Reel

Term 2

This term, the students enjoyed several trips to cinema, The Friars Aylesford Priory, Bluewater and Toby Carvery for our whole school Christmas dinner. Nimbus class enjoyed activities at Forest school and Alto & Stratus class attended MidKent college (the focus was on performing arts). On Fridays, students took part in ice-skating sessions as part of their curriculum enrichment. Students decorated the school's christmas tree and made gingerbread cookies.



The Friars Aylesford Priory



WE WISH YOU
MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023

FROM ALL STAFF AT BLUE SKIES SCHOOL