

Special Education Needs & Disability

Autumn 2021 – NEWSLETTER



MARICOURT
CATHOLIC
HIGH SCHOOL
& SIXTH FORM CENTRE



MARICOURT NEWSLETTER DEC 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to all our new families, to our Maricourt SEND community. We are an inclusive school and endeavor to ensure that our students and families feel supported and reassured that Maricourt is the best school for them. My team and I have had a busy term supporting our students with SEND to access the curriculum and make the most of the opportunities on offer at Maricourt. All students with SEND have a key worker /Key Teaching Assistant at school who will have been in regular contact with yourselves. This support proved to be invaluable last year, during the lockdown.

I have worked closely with our teaching staff to ensure teaching is adaptable to the needs of our students, as is our behavior policy. We have focused this term on promoting and developing the wellbeing of our students and all have received bespoke support which is evidenced through their personal development log. We were successful in a funding bid with the Shelia Cotes Foundation - to provide support to our students with Autism, via providing bespoke OSSME 1-1 support and to furnish a sensory room in Arnold Lower site.

Next term I hope to continue with our parent coffee mornings supported by external agencies as well as our parent SEND forum. If you would like to be part of this please email me.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=QDrsc3VHiU-LdLKgHETUBCo_jG39iB5EqyTPIDJYHORUMjQwREhMMVBMRzFOS1pQMUFXQU9NU1FRMS4u

Parent and Carer voice are essential to improving SEND provision and I welcome all feedback. I know we speak to you regularly but can I ask you to reflect on how well we communicate and co-produce SEND support plans and offer us any advice to help us strive forward with our plans for SEND for 2022. This questionnaire will take just a few minutes.

I'd like to add that both myself cowansj@maricourt.net and my admin assistant Mrs Byrne byrnec@maricourt.net are available for any concerns/worries you or your child has.

Finally, myself and the SEND team would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

Many Thanks,

Jo Cowans (SENDCo)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 9th December - Year 7 Parents' Evening
- 10th December – Inset Day
- Wednesday 22nd December – End of Term
- Fri 31st December – SEN Podcast (see link on next page)
- Wednesday 5th January – Term starts
- Thursday 6th December – Year 11 Parents Evening
- Tuesday 11th January 4pm – SEND Parent/Carer Forum (Maricourt lower school site)
- 12th January – Witherslack Podcast – Understanding Dyscalculia & Maths Anxiety
- Thursday 20th January – 6th Form Parents Evening
- Thursday 3rd February – Year 9 Parents Evening
- Thursday 17th March – Year 8 Parents Evening
- Thursday 31st March – Year 10 Parents Evening

Support for parents of children with SEND



“Children and young people with autism transform their lives when we start working alongside them using our specialist knowledge and support methods. Along with two schools, we run residential homes, community resource centres, supported work placements and a further education college. We also work in partnership with schools, pupils and parents to support children in mainstream education to fulfil their potential.”

Maricourt are working in partnership with Autism Initiatives from January 2022.

For more information about what services Autism Initiatives offer, please click on the link <https://autisminitiatives.org/>



Dyslexia

10% of the population are believed to be dyslexic, but it is still often poorly understood. With the right support, the strengths and talents of dyslexic people can really shine.

Is my child dyslexic?

Dyslexia is a combination of abilities as well as difficulties. A dyslexic learner, despite certain areas of difficulty, may be orally very able and knowledgeable, creative, artistic or sporty. Alongside these abilities will be a cluster of difficulties – these are different for every person.

Click the link below to see some of the indicators which can help you to identify a young person who may be dyslexic.

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/advice/children/is-my-child-dyslexic/signs-of-dyslexia-secondary-school-age>



SOCIAL EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

[Make a referral to Liverpool CAMHS - Liverpool CAMHS](#)



31 DECEMBER 2021

We have put together a podcast which is all about celebrating neurodiversity, empowering parents and carers, strengthening our children's super powers and acknowledging the heroic efforts of neurodiverse families across the country. Just in time for Christmas and all the festivities that the season brings we have a podcast that is filled with practical advice on how to manage family celebrations



<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/resources/sensational-the-special-educational-needs-podcast/>

Sefton's Autism and Social Communication Team

The Autism and Social Communication Team is part of the Complex Needs team, and sits within Sefton's SEN and Inclusion Service. They offer support for the inclusion of autistic children and young people in mainstream schools.

<https://www.seftondirectory.com/kb5/sefton/directory/advice.page?id=XtBcf2jIbX>

They offer a range of visual supports, tools and suggestions that parents and carers may find useful. Ideas for sensory activities, timetable symbols and anxiety tools are freely available by clicking on the links on the website.



Community Network | ADDvanced Solutions Community Network



ADDitude - ADD & ADHD Symptom Tests, Signs, Treatment, Support (additudemag.com)

