

Rebound Therapy



Over the summer, the school had a brand new piece of equipment installed – a large trampoline! This means that we are now able to offer Rebound Therapy sessions, with the help of Callum from Forth Valley Rebound Therapy Service CIC.

Callum comes into school twice a week to offer sessions to pupils, as well as continuing to deliver his evening sessions with some of our residential pupils that started earlier this year. For our pupils, Rebound Therapy is focused around the sensory and social outcomes, giving a safe space for them to experience the sensations that come with being on a trampoline and the chance to engage with Callum during the session. The benefits of the sessions extend beyond the trampoline though, with the time spent in Rebound Therapy having a calming effect which can help pupils throughout the day.

Different pupils will have the opportunity to attend Rebound Therapy sessions each term and by the end of this academic year, everyone will have had a turn taking part.



Children and Young People's Commissioner Team Visit

Recently, we had a workshop with the commissioner's team to explore the role of the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland. Our pupils were able to explore what this role meant to them and how they understand their rights.

We thought about what it means to be a commissioner; Jack shared that he thought this person would need to be strong, brave and understand what makes children happy. We also considered the exciting ways we can link this partnership to our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School.



Green Routes

We have been working hard to build a rich curriculum at the school and our newest addition to this is Green Routes. Green Routes is a social enterprise and charity, established to provide high quality training and work experience in horticulture for young adults with additional support needs. Some of our pupils are really enjoying accessing this opportunity once a week and are working towards achieving a John Muir Award through this experience. So far pupils have enjoyed learning about planting and caring for lambs!

Preparing for Life After School



We have two young people moving onto adult services in the coming months and as part of their preparation they have been exploring the ways they are connecting with their local community. Ross and Reece have been making their own breakfast every morning, going out for lunch in local cafes, exploring woodland walks at Gartmorn Dam and going to their local supermarkets where they are learning how to use the self-scan tills. They are both making wonderful progress with their level of independence which has been fantastic to see.

Jack and Jason Interviewed to Help Teachers

Two of our young people were interviewed recently by our Director of Autism Practice and Research, Charlene Tait. This was for some training Charlene was delivering to mainstream teachers on how to support learning in literacy for autistic pupils. Jason and Jack explored what they have found challenging about completing their novels and what support they have been provided with that has best helped them. The teachers in the training found hearing from Jack and Jason first hand incredibly helpful. Well done both!

Evisense Roll Out

We were excited to roll out Evisense during the first week of September for all our families. Evisense is a tool for schools that stores and showcases key events from a child's time in education. We are using it to record each pupil's achievements and progress through photos, videos, audio and documents. The platform can be used on mobile phones and tablets, where teachers and parents can upload photos and videos via a secure site to share progress in learning.

Changes in Leadership Team

We recently welcomed Lesley Lee to the School Leadership Team as our new Residences Manager. Lesley has been with Scottish Autism for over 20 years and worked as a Service Manager in our adult services prior to taking on this new post. This of course comes with a farewell as we said goodbye to Eileen. Eileen has been with the school since 2014, having previously worked in our adult services within Scottish Autism. We thank Eileen for all her input into New Struan over the last few years and wish her all the best luck for the future.

We also say goodbye to Jasmine Miller who was the school's Principal since 2013 and Head Teacher prior to that. Jasmine started in 2011 and has seen the school through many changes over the past six years – primarily a move to become a 52 week day and residential school. We thank Jasmine for all her hard work and input and wish her well in her new venture.

Congratulations to Lucy Chetty who is the new Head Teacher at New Struan! Both Lucy and Lesley will now report to Jackie Latto who is our Director of Autism Services at Scottish Autism.

We are also joined by Deborah Henderson who is our new Depute Head Teacher. Deborah comes to us from West Lothian Local Authority with a wealth of experience in both educational leadership and autism specific education development.

Healthy Living Award Plus



A few weeks ago we received our Healthy Living Award Plus at New Struan! This is an award given to establishments who show a greater commitment to supporting healthy eating. A massive well done to our lovely kitchen staff for achieving this award on behalf of the school.

For more information about New Struan School, please contact
01259 222000 or email newstruan@scottishautism.org