



# Blossom House Newsletter

FOR STAFF

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2017

## KEY DATES FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER 2017:

20th – 24th Nov:  
Careers Week

22nd Nov: 2.00pm:  
Careers Fair

30th Nov: 2.00pm:  
Primary Christmas  
Show

1st Dec: 2.00pm:  
Secondary  
Christmas Show

1st Dec: Staff  
Christmas Party!

13th Dec: 11am:  
School Carol  
Concert

14th Dec: Staff  
Work Day

Reminder of the virtual  
staff comment box web  
link:

[https://  
www.surveymonkey.co.  
uk/r/blossomideas](https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/blossomideas)

## Staff Benefits Survey Results

### Beneficial benefits!

Thank you to those staff (68 employees) who took the time to feedback on our staff benefits, we were pleased to find that 74% of you thought that our benefits package was better or much better than those of other employers. The survey focused on the benefits that came lower down in the list of appreciation in this year's staff survey, we know you like the well-being £60 per term!

### In summary:

- The Friday lunch is very much appreciated and thought of as an opportunity for staff to socialise with colleagues.
- The childcare and cycle schemes are not widely in use.

- In general, RPG sessions are welcomed but the current format should be changed to make them more useful.

- Very few respondents have accessed the employee assistance programme either online or by telephone (13%). Those who have used it didn't necessarily feel the service has met their needs.

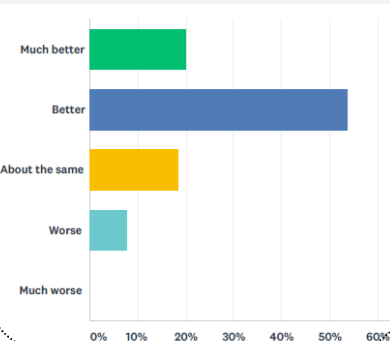
- In terms of what type of benefits the respondents are interested in; 81% long term financial planning (e.g. pension contributions, life assurance), 71% healthcare (medical insurance, access to counselling) and 65% healthy lifestyle (such as fruit, gym classes).

### Taking action

We will now take your feedback

into consideration when planning staff benefits in the future. If you would like to read the full benefits survey report you can find it here: [Shared Files/HR/Staff Benefits Survey Results](#).

In your experience, of other work-places, is Blossom House benefits package better or worse than those of other employers?



## Home Learning Policy

### Tom Richards introduces the new Home Learning Policy

In light of recent research regarding the effectiveness of homework, we are updating the homework policy for years 7, 8 and 9. Over the past term we have sought and received feedback from teachers, pupils and parents in regards to their feelings on the effectiveness of homework. Having taken all of this into consideration we have developed our new policy which will be subject to yearly review. Of key importance is the need to create a policy that will support the well-being of the diverse needs of our pupils.

## In other news...

### Marvellous Music Week

Nathan Dawe and Sophie Murray delivered a brilliant music week, well done!

### BSquared is Out of Here

The SAS (School Assessment System) has been successfully launched to replace BSquared.

### Science for All

Two Post-16 pupils have successfully completed the first half-term of the school's new Level 3 Science course, courtesy of Natalie Taylor.

### The Big Clean-Up

A big thank you to everyone in

the main office area for moving their belongings etc, so the rewiring and tidying could happen. Special thanks to those who helped with the clear up over the half term holidays.

### Congratulations Gemma

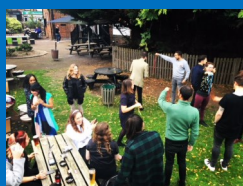
Gemma Chapple has been named the British Dyslexia Association's Teacher of the Year, fabulous news!



## Weddings Congrats

Wishing our half term newly weds all the best—Laurie Prichard (nee Birkhead), Becky Thomas (nee Harrison) and Juliette Donnelly (nee Burgess). Apologies for not covering weddings in the newsletter before—wishing all our newly wed staff all the good things that togetherness brings into your life!

## Bonkers Conkers!

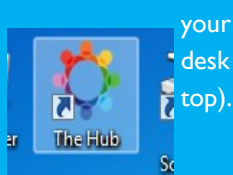


The 6th annual Conker competition winner was Anthony Hasset; Clem Turner-Powell gave him a good fight in the finals. Thanks for organising Alex!



### Local beauty treatment offer

Please see November offers and price lists for local beauty therapist Sarah Baillie on the Hub (link can be found on



# WELCOME

Another busy time for new joiners to our friendly team. Please welcome:



Aziz Sannie  
Teaching Assistant



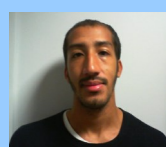
Chloe Foster  
Teaching Assistant



Lynn Athawes  
Teaching Assistant



Natalie James  
Teaching Assistant



Leo Yearwood (welcome back!)  
Teaching Assistant



Henna Lone  
Teaching Assistant

### Blossom New Starter

#### 'Buddy':

A buddy type system was consistently asked for via the staff survey—we are very short of volunteers, if you're interested please do get in touch with Zelah for more information.



Welcome to the world Billy, Oliver, Maeve, Archie, Nathan & Aria!



Oliver (Diane)



Billy (Beth)



Nathan (Ivy)



Maeve (Frances)



Aria (Lara)



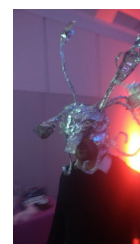
Archie (Felicity)

This term we have mostly been eating cake, making headdresses and wearing jeans

Three of our employees organised fantastic fundraising activities, well done and thank you Geena, Clem and Natalie Taylor!

**Geena** organised such a fun quiz night! An amazing £750 was raised which will go toward buying more tablets for our primary children who really struggle with handwriting and spelling.

**Clem** got the message out that eating cake was a fabulous idea and we raised a brilliant £400 for Macmillan.



Finally **Natalie** got us genes aware in our jeans—pupils and staff collected a whopping £255 in aid of Genetic Disorders UK.