

Weekly Parent Update

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Another busy week starting with some students attending a hospitality HR conference in London and continuing with a more local presentation to me by students in Foxes Lodge.

I was invited to the Lodge as a guest for their puppet show; the outcome of a project to celebrate a love of story and books. The Narnia theme was used to write an abridged story, in which students squeezed themselves into the puppet 'stage' they had constructed and manipulated the puppet characters they had created. Despite pre-show nerves, lines were delivered accurately and with confidence. The whole audience of fellow students and staff, spontaneously cheered the performers at the end. It was a great display of teamwork, respect and FUN! Thank you to the students and staff at the Lodge for all the creativity and hard work required to finalise the project. I am aware of a certain healthy competitiveness between the houses, so I am sure that I will have more to share in next week's newsletter.

An update regarding the end of term reports is that they are currently being proof-read by the team before being distributed by the end of January. I am happier with the new format, but we will welcome any feedback from parents/carers.

At this time of year, life gets a little more challenging anyway, but with poor weather and strikes, I hope you are all finding ways to keep safe and look after your well-being. Have a great week.

Kevin Parker

Foxes Interim Principal | [The Aurora Group](#)

PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE HILTON HR CONFERENCE
THIS WEEK. [PICTURED HERE: JAMES, SAFFY & TOM]



AN UPDATE FROM THE EDUCATION TEAM

This week students have been busily preparing and rehearsing for their imminent English Speaking Board (ESB) assessments. In many cases, students choose to present about their progress towards employment and the level of award is determined by the quality of the final piece. ESB have worked with Aurora Foxes' students for many years and they are so thrilled with their commitment and progress that ESB have invited students to be part of a film celebrating the 70th Anniversary of ESB later this year. Additionally, they have commissioned the students at the Hotel to bake a cake to be taken to celebration event! We will update you on the progress of this in future newsletters.

AN UPDATE FROM REYNARD CARE & SUPPORT

It has been lovely to connect with each house after the winter break. Students have settled nicely and all are getting back into their routines for hygiene and medication.

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GOLDEN MOMENT OF THE WEEK

Our golden moment this week was when 3rd year student Charlie showed the rest of his EMP class his ESB presentation. The response from his peers was wonderful, with lots of cheering and clapping. It truly demonstrated many of the Aurora values and Charlie was very appreciative of everyone's support.

With mutual respect and trust like this, it is no wonder that we have groups of Aurora Foxes graduates across the country now living together and supporting each other in their continued independence.

NOTABLE VISITS/ACTIVITIES

Three students attended the Hilton Hotels H.R. conference at the Kensington Hilton, London on Monday. An early start was followed by a complex journey by bus and then multiple changes on public transport.

"I just wanted to drop you a note to say thank you for coming along to the HR meeting on Monday. It was great to have all of our partners there to network and share such valuable insights with our HR team. As always the students Saffy, James and Tom were all outstanding and their energy and enthusiasm is totally infectious." Esther Brittan - Hilton Hotels

COMMUNITY/PARTNERSHIPS

It is with regret that we had to cancel this week's Williton work experience placement due to the bad weather. Student safety is always a priority and unfortunately we were unable to fulfil our commitment to the Williton community this week. With multiple accidents on the main route and yellow weather warnings later in the week, we decided that the visit was not worth the risk. However, weather permitting, staff and students will be in attendance next week and they are all eagerly looking forward to things returning to normal.

MAKATON SIGN OF THE WEEK

HOW TO SIGN 'BEING KIND'

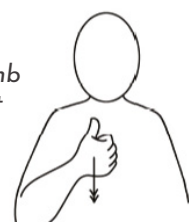
STEP 1:

Point to the side of your head



STEP 2:

Brush your thumb down your chest twice



WIDGET



Weekly Parent Update

SEXUAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

We are happy to announce that our 1st year students are now participating in the Down Syndrome Association's programme 'Let's talk about relationships and sex'. This is delivered in Health & Wellbeing sessions by the sexual health team. Last term, our 2nd year students successfully completed the programme and were all awarded certificates for their participation.

Thank you to all of our dedicated and hardworking staff for your support in these sessions - and thank you to our Sexual Health Advisors; Kerry Laing, Gabrielle Bonner, Samuel Duggan, Amanda Sheach and Stephen Adeleye.



Thanks for reading!