

# BFS News



27<sup>th</sup> Edition

October 2018

For more information about Bright Futures School please visit [www.brightfutureschool.co.uk](http://www.brightfutureschool.co.uk)

## School Move!

It's all change for Bright Futures School, its pupils and staff as we move to a new building! BFS is moving over the half term break to the former Smart Start Nursery premises, based at Oberlin Cottage on Oberlin Street in Greenacres, Oldham OL4 3HS. It's a fantastic building which we are sure both the pupils and staff will really enjoy! In addition we are also going to be welcoming some new pupils to school over the next few months and will actually be full with 12 pupils on roll in November 2018.



## New Swimming Pool fun!



As well as brand new premises, our Bright Futures School pupils will also benefit from fantastic new swimming sessions, funded by the Rotary Club, after half term at the stunning Manor House Barn in Dobcross. Our students will just love the facilities at this state of the art swimming pool nestled in the tranquil setting of the beautiful Saddleworth hills.

School will close for the Half Term break at 3pm on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018** and will re-open to pupils on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018**.

**Happy Holidays Everyone!**

They will be able to swim proper lengths as well as play games and go on the inflatables.

There is also a diving board at Manor House in Dobross, so pupils can practice their diving techniques. It really is a lovely pool in an amazing setting and the pupils will get a lot out of the trips on Friday afternoons. It will also be a lovely way to end the school week. Staff are really looking forward to starting the new swimming sessions at the exclusive pool too when we return to school after the half term break!

**Thank you to Mike Cooper!**

Thank you very much to Mike Cooper from Greenfield for donating these fantastic time trackers to help our BFS pupils with time management.



Mike very kindly got in touch recently after having a clear out where he works as a LD Nurse for a day service in South Manchester with adults on the autistic spectrum. He very kindly dropped them off at Bright Futures School in Grasscroft for us. These time tracers will really help our pupils here with time management skills. Thank you very much indeed!

## Employability Course for pupils

Two of our older pupils, Harry and Marley, are participating in a new ASDAN short course which focuses on 'Employability Skills Development.' The course includes all aspects of preparing for the working world and is aimed at improving confidence and developing new skills. This half term has provided the boys with an opportunity to discuss Customer Awareness with Sophie, who runs a family owned business in Greenfield (Station Brew Cafe).



We had an insight into working life within the food industry and what employers look for when they are recruiting staff and how important it is to provide good customer care. Thank you very much to Sophie. We gained lots of good helpful pointers!

Harry and Marley also had the privilege to Join Kate Hall, Outreach Development Ranger for the Peak District National Park at Dovestones Reservoir. Kate is responsible for ensuring the reservoirs and surrounding areas are looked after. The boys were fortunate to find out all about Kate's role and also learn the history of Dovestones. So much to see and do!







For more information about Bright Futures School please visit [www.brightfutureschool.co.uk](http://www.brightfutureschool.co.uk)

Both boys had a fantastic time learning all about the reservoir pump station and even helped Kate with a litter pick!



Kate Hall, Outreach Development Ranger, Peak District National Park Authority, said: "What does it mean to be an Outreach Ranger at Dovestones? With my help, as the Ranger, Harry and Marley have been finding out just that. So far, they have been exploring the area, learning about rights of way, looking out for and reporting damaged fences, stiles or gates, how Dovestone got its name and helping to keep it looking good by litter picking. They have also been on a tour of the pump house which operates the reservoirs, which was kindly undertaken by Chris Breen who is the Catchment Officer for United Utilities. And all this has been in as little as two weeks! We still have a lot more to learn and do and plenty more adventures ahead, which I am sure Harry and Marley will embrace like they have already done."

### Balsam Bashing

Pupils, Jayden and Sahil, worked together recently with Learning Mentors Karen Hutch and Jo, helping to keep local pathways clear of Himalayan Balsam! It was a great afternoon, and lots of fun was had Balsam Bashing!



### Oldham Fast Grants

Attention all parents and members of our local community! You can apply now for 'Oldham Fast Grants' if you've got an idea and would like to develop a local project that needs between £50 and £500 of funding. You can apply for a Fast Grant to develop a project which could: change your area for the better; develop the skills of local people; encourage your community to be fit and healthy. To apply, visit <https://oldhamcares.com/fast-grants/>

### Bobbin Making at Hollingworth Lake

On Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September, some of our pupils went to Hollingworth Lake. They made birch bobbins on the pole lathe and made natural dyes and printed fabrics. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Two pupils, Sahil and Marley, wrote about their favourite parts...

*"We went to Hollingworth Lake. When we were there we made dye out of plants and berries. We painted trees with it and made leaf prints using rocks and material."*

*"We made a bobbin using a lathe. We had to use our feet and legs to make it spin. We did lots of activities like identifying leaves too."*



### Goodbye and Good Luck to Jo and Sheree!

Two of our lovely Learning Mentors, Jo Blyden and Sheree Horn left BFS this last term. Jo has gone travelling around France and Spain with a friend and Sheree is heading off to pastures new, working for Oldham Council. Thanks to you both for all your hard work over the last few years. We all wish you lots of luck!



### Welcome to Louise

Louise Howarth has started at BFS, taking over Jo Blyden's role. Louise Howarth (PGCE, Moving and Handling People Trainer & Assessor) has worked as a Health & Social Care teacher and freelance trainer since 2008. Louise trained care teams supporting people with learning disabilities and she also taught BTEC courses at a local FE college. Louise specialised in subjects including Moving and Handling People, Safeguarding and Service User Risk Assessment. Prior to this, Louise spent ten years working for a London charity - managing and developing residential services for people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs. Welcome to BFS Louise! We look forward to working with you.

Have a lovely half term break!

