

Christmas Cheer

Our students love being creative and hands-on throughout the year, but Christmas is a particularly special time where it becomes even more magical to share in festive crafts and cheer. This year, it was a joy to welcome families back onsite to our Christmas Craft event and parent-led bingo fundraiser. It was wonderful to see so many of you come together to make wonderful decorations, enjoy carols and indulge in a mince pie or two!

We have also been fortunate to have a visit from Santa this year. Santa and his merry elves, accompanied by festive songs, visited each building across our campus to spread good cheer and some tasty treats! Santa's visit is always a highlight and beaming smiles and laughter followed them on their journey.



World Cup Party

Despite an early exit from the World Cup for the England team, they had plenty of support from our Sheiling football fans during their matches. One game was shown in Tobias Hall so that students could come together to watch and support. Lots of students attended and watched the whole game. They celebrated goals, sang some football songs and many got involved in face-painting. Several students brought their snacks, so they didn't miss any of the action. It was a fantastic and fun-filled experience to join together in our support.



Upper School Superstars

Staying with a Christmas theme, our Upper School class in Briery would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and they hope that all of the wonderful gifts and goodies that they have prepared with great skill bring smiles to their recipients. Staff that worked with the class were certainly smiling and tremendously pleased with the commitment and concentration all of the students demonstrated. Throughout mini-enterprise and technology lessons, they produced a wealth of gifts and decorations including Christmas cards and handmade decorations to sell, lavender bags, clay leaves, gingerbread biscuits and much more!



Fundraising Update

Hello, my name is Rachel and I am thrilled to have joined the Sheiling team in the role of Fundraiser. I have lots of exciting new ideas for the coming year to expand our fundraising activities so that we can help our students to access even more opportunities to help them realise their full potential.

There are many ways you can support us to raise funds. If you would like to discuss how you can help, please contact **Rachel on 01425 482437 or email: rachel.staff@thesheilingringwood.co.uk**

Fundraising Success Stories:

Waitrose – A big thankyou to everyone at Waitrose, Ringwood who have donated £1K through their Community Matters scheme.

Nineveh Charitable Trust generously made a grant of £2000 enabling us to replace the damaged polytunnel in Sheiling Garden. This new, commercial grade polytunnel is now in place and being used daily by our students. This large tunnel provides a sheltered area to grow crops as well as a much-welcomed covered space for learning.

Amazon Wishlist – Thank you to everyone who has purchased items. There is still time to support this! Simply click, <https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/VSIIHCY496GK>



Work Experience

Earlier this term, students worked hard planting bulbs with the volunteers at Swaythling Station as part of South Western Railway's Big Bulb Plant Out. We look forward to seeing the bulbs in bloom.

Students who carry out work experience at Hinton Admiral, our adopted train station, have also been hard at work enhancing the appearance of the platform and surrounding areas.

When milder weather returns, college groups will undertake a range of projects both within college lessons and at the station to maintain and develop the station environment. Projects will include building planters, making and planting wildflower seed bombs and painting the station fencing.



College Collaboration

Creativity and entrepreneurial skills are in abundance in college. We are continually delighted with wonderful ideas and lovely products. We have recently been treated to more handmade products from 'Plush'. Plush is a student enterprise where they design and make natural bath products with the most amazing scents and colours.

This term, the Plush team were invited to share their goods at Bournemouth & Poole College's Christmas Craft Fair. Our college students put a lot of effort into setting up their shop including colourful table decorations and received lots of lovely feedback from their customers, especially the friendly and polite customer service.

Sister company, 'Relish the Moment', have also been busy with students offering tasting sessions, recording feedback and developing their relish and chutneys ready for sale. We were all pleased to be offered beautifully packaged products that are perfect as gifts in time for Christmas.



Contribute and Connect with the Parent Forum & Discord

We would like to remind you that we have a range of methods in which parents can take the opportunity to connect with staff and with other parents.

The Sheiling Discord group is run by parent members of the Parent Forum. Discord is a parent-to-parent online chat platform.

‘This group’s aim is to keep all parents with an interest in The Sheiling Ringwood up to date with our news and achievements.

This group is open to all parents as and when they need to use it. There is no pressure on individuals to post, answer questions or to share any information. We are a unique group of parents who have a better chance of understanding any concerns, worries and can help provide solutions.’

To connect, simply click on the link,
<https://discord.com/invite/2G7trfWhuq>

The next Parent Forum meeting is via Teams on Wednesday 1st February at 7pm. If you would like to learn more about the Parent Forum, please email health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk

‘Being a parent to a child with special needs can be daunting and, at times, lonely. I have found being part of the Parent Forum has helped me in many ways. I feel involved in the school, I’ve learnt lots by being part of discussions with parents, staff and members of the Board. The Parent Forum enables parents and carers to make a real contribution to the School.

There is no pressure to be heavily involved, you can do as much or as little as you can. I feel that I am becoming more confident in my parenting ability with a better understanding of how the school functions. Being part of the forum has confirmed to me how dedicated the staff are in their care, understanding and teaching of the children/young adults.’

Our Environment

We are all very appreciative of our therapeutic woodland site and, as always, we strive to be as eco-friendly as possible, engaging in many initiatives and developing new ideas to maintain and preserve this wonderful asset.

Recently, the Facilities Team - in collaboration with students - submitted a series of projects to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) with the aim of achieving the Silver Award. This follows the success in obtaining our Bronze Award.

Students have worked tirelessly during the year to raise awareness and vital funds for the BHPS with a variety of projects and events including the auction of a picture and needlecraft, all handmade by students.

The staff car park has been completed to include a ‘hedgehog highway’ under the perimeter fencing. A student favourite was the placing of an animal footprint indicator in Sheiling Garden. We were lucky enough to capture hedgehog footprints, much to our delight! We will find out in January if we have been successful in achieving our Silver Award.

Our beehives have flourished, producing around 50 jars of Sheiling Honey; we were able to sell and donate our honey along with candles made from Sheiling wax.



Trustee Introduction

It is probably time for lifting the lid a little on the mysterious group known as the Trustees of the Sheiling Special Education Trust (SSET), and it would seem sensible to start with the Chair so, as the Rolling Stones once sang, “Please allow me to introduce myself”. I’m Jeremy Morris, and I have had the pleasure and honour of occupying the Chair of Trustees role since November 2013. In those days, I was a Parent Trustee, as both my autistic sons have been students at the Sheiling. Daniel attended School and College, and Ben followed his brother into College when his time at Beaucroft School was over. Both benefitted enormously from their time with the Sheiling and I’m proud to be able to support SSET as much as I can.



As a day job, I’ve worked for the past 10 years for one of the big global IT Services companies, where I lead teams of technical and business consultants working for our UK and European clients. Prior to that, I spent over 20 years running my own IT Consultancy business. Somehow during that period, my wife Liz and I learned about autism and how to bring up children! I also try to spend some of what I laughingly call my “spare time” playing loud rock music in a couple of local bands.

This combined experience (apart from the loud rock music part!) has helped me to support the Sheiling – because I have some understanding not only of the “business” aspects of leading a charitable Trust, but more importantly of the range and scale of the challenges facing our students and their families, which helps me to support our amazing staff in providing the wonderful levels of care and learning that they deliver. The SSET Trustees have never lost sight of the need to focus on “how” our services are delivered – we are not simply there to ensure the efficient management of the organisation and compliance with the (ever-increasing!) regulatory load – important though that is. The way our people behave and act, the principles they follow and the approach and style of delivery – which we refer to as our Ethos – are what makes SSET what it is, and our role is to keep that alive and thriving. I look forward to continuing to do so.

Jeremy

Community Spirit

The festival of St. Martin encourages us to be the warmth and light for ourselves and for others. This festival celebrates hope and kindness to help others and be the good in the world.

As a community we collected 8 bags of warm clothes for men, women and children. We donated our Sheiling collection to the local charity, Hope for Food, for distribution to those in need during the winter months.



Update from the Principal

Dear Parents,

The students had a good start to this academic year, with all curriculum and offsite activities back to pre-Covid levels. We are pleased to share that, whilst staff vacancies are still present, the levels have reduced; this means that class and house teams have more consistent staff teams supporting your children. Recruitment and retention are key to our organisation and I'm sure you will all acknowledge that the staff at the Sheiling are exceptional in their dedication to the students.

Over the many decades that I have been part of the Sheiling, there has been a change where we have moved away from only supporting residential students to having many more day students joining and benefitting from our provision. The Senior Management Team is looking ahead at the future to ensure that we can continue to meet the needs of a wider range of young people's needs. Once our draft plans have been discussed with our Board of Trustees, we will be sharing our ideas with parents and look forward to hearing from you all.

School Ofsted social care inspection

We are delighted with the Ofsted inspection result which graded the residential house, Feirefis, as 'Good'

with outstanding features. This is the result of many years of hard work by the leaders, house managers and their team. For those of you who are interested in reading the report in full, please click on the link below: <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50198454>

The Therapy Offer at the Sheiling

Therapies are integrated within the daily life of the students and support them to access learning. Communication is key to understanding and partaking in the world around you; being able to regulate your sensory impressions and take control of any emotions and behaviour is central to living a happy life. Eurythmy, art, colour light and music therapy complement the other therapies to ensure all aspects of the student's life is supported. If you would like to know more and understand how the Therapy Offer works at the Sheiling, please join the Teams event on 18 January – all details are available within the flyer in this newsletter.

Wishing you all a light-filled Christmas and a happy New Year!

Corine

Create your Own Café

In Carmen's class, as part of our mini-enterprise, we have enjoyed visiting different cafés and have now set up our own class café. On Tuesdays, we have been selling cupcakes to other classes alongside a range of snacks and drinks. The students have had a great time learning how to cook, serve and take payments. Their enthusiasm has become infectious and everyone looks forward to café day.



Policy Reminder

A reminder that our regulatory policies are reviewed regularly and are uploaded to our website for easy access. To view, please visit our website,

www.thesheilingringwood.co.uk.

However, if you would like a hard copy, this can be accommodated, please just get in touch.

Fantastic Festivals

The vibrant festival calendar we all look forward to has continued with enthusiasm once again this year and has seen a full return to togetherness for our whole community.

Students decorated jars for a magical lantern walk, learned more about poetry and art with nature for Remembrance Day, enjoyed a community meal and nature-art for Michaelmas and felt the enchantment of walking the Advent spiral with the magic of carols filling the room.

Students are now eagerly anticipating Christmas which shows in all of their class work but also in the many joyful activities we have seen across our campus.

Dates for your Diary



Christmas Break

17th December - 2nd January 2023
(inclusive)

Half Term

11th February - 19th February 2023
(inclusive)

Easter Break

30th March - 16th April 2023
(inclusive)



Social Media

We are keeping our Twitter (@sheilingringwd), Facebook (@sheilingringwood), Instagram (thesheilingringwood) and LinkedIn (The Sheiling Ringwood) pages up-to-date. Check them out to see what is happening across the campus, events, see great new pictures and even keep in touch. Our YouTube channel (The Sheiling Ringwood) is another fantastic source of information and activities.



Enjoy the Festive Break

Therapy Event

An online introduction to the therapy team
& the Sheiling approach



We invite the families of The Sheiling Ringwood to attend our evening Therapy Event via Teams. You will be able to explore and learn about our Therapy Offer and individual therapies. To confirm your attendance, please email health@thesheilingringwood.co.uk



Join us on Teams

Wednesday 18th January 2023

7:00pm - 8:30pm

- The Sheiling approach – Our Offer
- How we meet EHCP needs
- Meet the team
- The role of an anthroposophical doctor
- Q's and A's



The Sheiling Ringwood

Horton Road, Ashley, Ringwood, Hants BH24 2EB

thesheilingringwood.co.uk

01425 477488

