

# Pastoral News



Term 4 2024-2025

## Introduction

My first half term at The Castle School has come and gone, and what a term it has been.

I first learnt about The Castle School shortly after moving to Newbury in January 2022. Having recently left South Africa, and my dream job at Autism South Africa, I took myself for a run to get to know my new home. I turned right onto Love Lane and ran past the school during break time. That was the start of my journey with this wonderful school.

A few months later, I got a job that allowed me the fortune to work both with some of the staff, as well as with some students. During this time I got little pictures of what The Castle School was really about. Nearly 3 years later and in my now dream job, I have learnt that the little pictures of support, aspiration, knowledge and drive to improve the lives of every student at the school, is the big picture.

I am absolutely thrilled to be the new Behaviour and Pastoral lead. Jackie and Megan have left incredibly big boots to fill. I hope that I am not only able to fill those boots, but to also take them on a journey that will allow, our students, and you, their families, to feel supported, to exceed expectations and to thrive in every way possible.

The Pastoral room door is always open, please reach out if there is anything that you need help with, advice on, or just an ear to listen. Pauline or I are always available.

Kaylene

## What's been happening?

Our Boost group meets every morning from 9:00- 9:30. The students each have some breakfast and a drink and then play a game as a group. The purpose of Boost is not only to start the day with some pancakes and milk, but also to learn life skills, build confidence and develop social skills.

## What's coming up?

Starting in March, we will be inviting students to join us for a "play date" during lunch time. We recognise that many of our students have never been invited for a play date, but are likely to have seen their siblings, cousins or neighbours have them. Please keep an eye out for their "play date" invitation.

## Dates & Points to remember:

### Pastoral Coffee Morning

When: Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> March

Time: 9:00- 11:00

Where: Castle Gate, Love Lane, RG14 2JG.

### Benefits & Maximising Income

Hosted by: ASD Family Help

When: Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> March

Where: Thatcham Baptist Church

To book on please email:

[jayne@asdfamilyhelp.org](mailto:jayne@asdfamilyhelp.org)

### Events & Workshops

Parenting Special Children have a variety of events and workshops that may be helpful to many of our families. Please visit their website for more information.

<https://parentingspecialchildren.co.uk/events/>

Keep an eye on the Pastoral notice board in the Pastoral room for more tips, workshops and events.