

Great Oaks Weekly

Friday 4th October 2024



October

is



AAC



Awareness



month

What is AAC?

AAC Stands for Augmentative and Alternative Communication. AAC is essentially any communication that doesn't involve speech!

A- Methods that enhance a persons existing communication difficulties

A- Providing a different means of communication when natural speech is limited or not possible

C- Students to express themselves effectively using a range of methods.

Types of AAC we use at Great Oaks

High Tech: Ipad with AAC Apps

Mid Tech: Devices with buttons, switches or voice output Communication Aids

Low Tech Systems: Physical Communication aids like boards, books or choice boards

Symbol based Communication: At Great Oaks we use Widgeit Software symbols

Sign Language and Gestures: We are a signing school that welcome all signs from students. We use and model Signalong (a keyword sign-supported Communication system)

Customised AAC systems: Personalised AAC systems tailored to an individual needs.

At Great Oaks we implement and encourage a Total Communication approach. This means we recognise, accept, celebrate and develop all forms of communication.



Coming up

4th October – Parent / Carer Coffee morning on West (Vermont) site but all welcome

10th October – School travel consultation 11.00 – 12.30pm (see page 2)

11th October – Parent / Carer Coffee morning on South (Green Lane) site but all welcome

16th October – Parents Evening. See details from class teachers / tutors

Thursday 24th, Friday 25th October – INSET Days

28th October – 1st November Half-term

Monday 4th November – INSET Day

12th November – Futures Fayre for pupils / students and Parents in Year 10 and above. More details to follow

Friday 6th December – Christmas Fayre

20th December – End of Autumn Term

Class twinning

As part of our theme of Community this year and focussing this term on the Great Oaks community we have introduced a brand-new initiative to the school.

In Assembly on Monday each class was randomly paired with another class in the school. Most pairings were with classes in different Pathways or on different sites. Throughout the year we will be encouraging classes to work together and will be reporting on some of the joint projects that they embark on. They started this week by sending their twin class a class selfie!



Travel Consultation

Southampton City Council are currently consulting on their School Travel Policy for next year (including Post 16 travel). If you would like to contribute to this please see survey link below:

[Consultations and surveys \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://southampton.gov.uk)

They will also be holding a drop in consultation event at Great Oaks (West site) next Thursday between 11.00 and 12.30

Student Councils meet

The Pathway 2 Student Council met this week, they discussed their roles and responsibilities and began planning a Halloween party to be held in a couple of weeks.



Max's attendance Challenge

The challenge this week was to see which Year Group had the best attendance. There was a close contest for 1st and 2nd place. Year 10 students had a great attendance this week of 94.01% attendance, however there were just pipped to the post by Year 7 students who achieved 94.43% - well done Year 7s

Year 9 PE

After great team building skills and assembling a raft some of the year 9 students have fun on the river.



Well done to pupils and staff in Pathways 3 who supported the MacMillan Cake sale last Friday - £200 was raised

