

# Cambridge Park Academy

## Spring Term 2025



**A warm welcome back to all of our pupils, parents, carers and staff!**

I hope that you have all had a lovely break over the festive period and have managed to enjoy the time with your friends and families. It has been lovely to welcome everybody back - our first week of 2025 has been a very positive one!

We have been working hard to develop better ways of communicating with our families and hope that this newly reformatted newsletter gives a more useful insight into what is going on at CPA as well as sharing the voices from across our staff team and celebrating successes for our wider community!

The Autumn term was certainly a long one but it was also a hugely successful one that was filled with some magical moments both in the classrooms and as part of the wider curriculum for our pupils. One big highlight for us is when we get the chance to meet parents and carers in person so the Open Evening and our Christmas Productions at the end of the term were just fantastic with so much to share and celebrate.

Work on our school site is a bit like painting the Forth Road bridge – by the time you think you have finished something, there is another bit to start! Having spent the last 3 years redesigning the interior of the school, we have been hard at work making the external areas the best that they can be and although not completed yet, recent works (especially the Pirate Ship!) have been well received by our pupils. A big thank you to all of our parents and carers who commented so positively on the changes to the school environments – it is an enormous job but we feel really strongly about creating the very best conditions for your children to succeed both in and out of the classroom.



I would also like to say thank you to the huge number of you who took the time to complete our most recent parental questionnaires, your voice is important and really helps us to shape what we are doing and how we are thinking when we plan together as a school team. The outcomes of the questionnaires were incredibly positive and supportive of school with 98% of questions receiving either an 'agree' or 'strongly agree' statement!

Whilst this paints a very positive picture, we know that there is always more that we can do to make our best even better so that our pupils receive only the very best. We have listened carefully to what you are saying and hope that the "You Said – we did" exercise felt useful – it certainly was for us and has allowed us to consider some things that we previously hadn't thought about. A good example of this is that a lot of



you felt that you would like more of an opportunity to be involved in yearly transitions. We know that transitions can be tricky for all of us so hopefully having our new 'Transition Session' where you will all get to spend some time with both the new class teacher and other parents in the group, will support and ease some of the anxieties that affect us all during these year-end changes. To further support this aspect of school life, teachers will provide a 'pen portrait' of themselves to new pupils and families so that you all know a little bit more about them!

You will have noticed a 'new' logo being used for our school and this is part of the work we have done to best shape our school to meet needs of our pupils – the logo keeps the same 4 themes as designed by pupils themselves some years ago but has a fresher feel to it which keeps the pupils at the heart of everything that we do! The logo itself is just a small part of this work and there are two other exciting strands that we know will really support us to communicate and share the successes of our school in a much better way. The first is our new website which is (finally!) nearly ready to go live and will have a much more user-friendly feel to it as well as much more accessible and useful information. The second thing will be the launch of our new social media feed which will run through Facebook's platform - we are so excited about this as I know from past experiences that when it is done right, it will offer a much richer insight into what the school days look like for your children!



Thank you all for your continued support and *take care everyone*,

Mr Kernan  
(Principal)



Hi everyone, Mrs French (Assistant Principal) here – I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome back to the Spring Term. The staff at CPA have lots of exciting learning planned and we are looking forward to seeing the pupils explore topics such as; oceans, The Vikings, electricity, rainforests, Christianity and so much more!

The Academy is also working towards 'The Arts Mark Award' after successfully securing The Science Quality Mark in May 2024. The programme recognises schools' exceptional commitment to creativity and is a nationally recognised award, accredited by the Arts Council England.



Looking back at Autumn Term, the pupils have been very busy with their learning and have so many successes and achievements to share and celebrate.

Our Primary pupils have been lost in the world of Traditional Tales and have thoroughly enjoyed their learning being inspired by the books they have been reading in lessons.



Pupils in KS3 visited a working farm in Messingham and learnt all about the dairy cows, the lambs and collected eggs from the hens. They were even put to work with sweeping and cleaning up after the animals. KS3 also visited Gainsborough Old Hall and brought their learning of the Tudors to life.

Pupils in KS4 visited Lincoln Castle as part of their History topic – Crime and Punishment. They are also visiting the Tower of London in Spring term!

Five pupils during Autumn term took part in the Phillips 66 Sustainability challenge, where they explored ideas of how to help the planet. They were invited to the finals at the Aura Centre in Hull where they shared their pollution solution with other schools and members of the public and even brought home an Outstanding Student award!

Pupils have also been learning the skill of DJ'ing with the help of Noise Academy and have worked all term to create and mix their own DJ set which can be found by searching Cambridge Park Academy on Sound Cloud.

I look forward to sharing the pupils learning through our Facebook page and through future newsletters.



### Useful dates for the Spring Term...

- 14.2.25: Valentine Disco and end of term
- 7.3.25: World Book Day
- 21.3.25: Comic Relief Red Nose Day - Wear odd socks!
- 2.4.25: World Autism Day - Wear something blue!
- 4.4.25: Easter Bonnet Parade - Parents invited and end of term



<b>Meet the CPA Pastoral Team</b>	
<b>Darren Gardiner</b> - Assistant Principal & Designated Safeguarding Lead	
<b>Bryony Lockyer</b> - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Primary)	
<b>Tracey Weller</b> - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (Secondary)	
<b>Hayley Whitney-Smith</b> - Safeguarding (6 <sup>th</sup> form) and Family Engagement	
<b>Iain Ceclich</b> - Family Engagement (PD & Transition)	
<b>Emma Andrew</b> - Attendance	
<b>Ann O'Reilly</b> - Attendance	

The Spring term is always an exciting time as we welcome pupils back to school after the festive break!

This year has seen the government put a huge focus on improving attendance. We are delighted to say that at Cambridge Park Academy we have had a positive start to the year and our attendance for the autumn term was 95% which is significantly higher than special school settings across the country. This is as a result of a collaborative approach from CPA and parents and carers so we thank you for your continued support in working together to improve attendance.

We are pleased to further develop our parent/carer offer in the form of our bi-weekly coffee mornings and regular workshops – further details of these below so please feel free to come along!

The safeguarding team have been busy completing training in a variety of areas to ensure that we can offer the best care and support to our pupils and families. As always if you have any queries or require information about the local offer or early help then please contact a member of the safeguarding team.

As we begin the spring term we are looking forward to welcoming Ali Barfield who is going to deliver some training and workshops for staff, parents and carer and pupils on 'Prevent' and the links to autism. This will take place at CPA on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 12-1pm for parents/carers so , again, feel free to join us.

*Mr Gardiner (Assistant Principal)*





## Parent and Carer Celebration Stories...

**We recognise that beyond school life there are so many challenges that our parents and carers face – however, running alongside that, there are also countless amazing success stories which never get fully recognised! Thank you for all of you who have responded with your own stories and for allowing us to celebrate them with the wider school community!**

On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September the North East Lincolnshire Parent Carers Forum (NELPCF) held the Better Together For SEND event. The aim of the event was to share the realities of being a SEND family along with highlighting what is available for SEND families to access within North east Lincolnshire. This event was very well attended, with 231 people attending throughout the day.



One of our parents, **Nicola Gwaspari**, was a guest speaker at the event who gave a presentation concentrated on autism and the reality of being a neurodivergent family. Nicola has 5 neurodivergent children, one whom attends Cambridge Park Academy and she is also neurodivergent. Nicola wanted to share her own experiences with carers and professionals and was humbled by the reaction to her presentation. Many people said that they could relate to her experience and thanked her for talking so openly about her life.



*Well done from us all Nicola!*

For more information about the North East Lincolnshire Parent Carers Forum (NELPCF), please visit <https://nelpcf.org.uk>.

### CPA Parent/Carer Workshops and Coffee Mornings – Spring Term

Everyone is more than welcome to attend these events although spaces can sometimes be limited so follow the link below to book onto any sessions that may be useful – also a great opportunity to meet other parents within our school community!

**Online Learning Workshop** (Transitions to Adulthood) – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00

**Autism and Prevent Seminar** (Exploring potential risks and vulnerabilities faced by young people on the autism spectrum) – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, 12:00 – 13:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy (Online option available)

**Family Coffee Morning** (Relational Trauma) – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, 09:00 – 11:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Online Learning Workshop** (Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder) – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00

**Online Learning Workshop** (Understanding Autism) – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2025, 10:00 – 11:00



**Family Coffee Morning** (Art & Wellbeing) – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, 09:00 – 11:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Seminar** – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Valentines Disco (Students)** – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Family Coffee Morning** (Lead Nurse, Community Learning Disability Team) – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, 09:00 – 11:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Family Coffee Morning** (We are Fish) – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, 09:00 – 11:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Deputyship/Lasting Powers of Attorney Workshop** (BG Solicitors) – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 @ Cambridge Park Academy

**Family Coffee Morning** (Autism and the realities of being a neurodivergent family) – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2025, 09:00 – 11:00 @ Cambridge Park Academy

Please click the following link to book onto the online workshops and seminars.

[https://www.cambridgepark.co.uk/family\\_community\\_support\\_hub/whats\\_on\\_@\\_cpa/whats\\_on\\_@\\_cpa.html](https://www.cambridgepark.co.uk/family_community_support_hub/whats_on_@_cpa/whats_on_@_cpa.html)

*Take care everybody – here's to a happy, healthy and successful 2025  
from all the Staff Team at CPA*



