



ABINGDON

From: The Head of Learning Support, Sarah Beynon

15 September 2022

### **Introduction to the Learning Support department for parents whose children have an identified SEND**

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome your child to Abingdon this year. This letter is for the attention of parents whose children have just joined us and have an identified learning difference or have had exam access arrangements in the past and is to introduce the Learning Support Department and explain how we arrange support for students, if this is needed.

The Learning Support Department is based in its own building next to the Health Centre at Whitefields. It provides a pleasant environment in which we are able to work with students on a one to one or small group basis. There are currently two specialist teachers in the department: myself (Sarah Beynon) and Hettie Preiss-Chapman with a third teacher joining us in January.

We offer support in a range of areas, including support with literacy and written work, study and revision skills and other short-term support targeting curriculum areas, if requested by the subject teacher. We are also able to offer small group support both for study skills and for spelling and handwriting. This list is not exhaustive as our aim is to tailor support to each individual's needs.

The support most commonly takes the form of a series of six lessons which students attend on a rotational basis, coming out of a different lesson each week in order to minimise any impact on their academic curriculum. Should someone need to work with us for a longer period, further lessons can be arranged in subsequent years. This support is viewed as an integral part of Abingdon and there is no additional charge. Referrals for support come through the student's tutor, housemaster or subject teachers. We find it best to allow new 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students to settle in to their normal school routines before arranging any individual Learning Support lessons so would not normally see them, apart from an initial meeting, until the second half of the Michaelmas term at the earliest.

In addition to the support outlined above, all students who have been formally assessed and are on the SEND Register are monitored closely as they progress through the school. All teachers are made aware of a student's profile and of the need to make adjustments accordingly, via the school's database. To enable this to happen, it is school policy to maintain up to date information regarding the nature of your son's SEND, including his educational psychologist or other reports and any recommended access arrangements for exams. Not only does this inform our teaching, but is required by the exam boards. We are only able to permit exam access arrangements (such as extra time) if your child has been assessed by a fully qualified specialist within the time frame stipulated by the boards – that

Abingdon School, Park Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE

Tel: 01235 521563 Fax: 01235 849079

[www.abingdon.org.uk](http://www.abingdon.org.uk)

is, during or after Curriculum Year 9 (our 3rd year). We may therefore request that you take your child for an update of their assessment with a chartered educational psychologist or other specialist. The requirement is that we have an established working relationship with the assessor, so ask you contact us before arranging any such assessment. Following assessments, we carry out a review of the report and offer support to implement its recommendations and will continue to monitor your child's performance and use of access arrangements, to ensure the latter are fit for purpose .

As part of our whole year group monitoring, all of the 1st and 3rd Year will take screening tests during Michaelmas Term; you will be contacted separately about this. When this happens, please do reassure your child that this should not cause them any anxiety: we are already aware of their needs and that they may need support from our department.

I hope that this letter gives you a good understanding of the scope and nature of Learning Support at Abingdon. Our SEND policy is given on the school website under <https://www.abingdon.org.uk/about/school-policies/>. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our provision, do please feel free to contact me. The best way to do this is by email and, if you would like to talk further, we can then arrange a mutually convenient time.

I and the Learning Support team look forward to meeting your child soon and working with your child during their time at Abingdon and wish them every success during their time here.

Best regards,

Sarah Beynon  
[sarah.beynon@abingdon.org.uk](mailto:sarah.beynon@abingdon.org.uk)  
Head of Learning Support