

LEARNING SUPPORT AT POYNTON HIGH SCHOOL



Message from the New SENDCo

I am delighted to introduce myself as the newly appointed SENDCO at Poynton High School. In some sense I do not really consider myself as 'new,' having worked here previously as Head of History then as Head of Year. When the opportunity to return as SENDCO arose I knew it was an opportunity I could not miss; and it really feels like I have come home.

To give you some background, I have worked in a wide range of schools, including our Trust partner Glossopdale School. I have had roles including Head of Department, Head of Faculty, Head of Year, Progress leader and in my last school as SENDCO. In addition, I have been a senior examiner at both GCSE and AS level. SEND has become my passion, but this breath of experience and knowledge is a real asset in supporting SEND students and staff alike across the whole school.

One important way the role of SENDCO has changed at Poynton is that the role now sits on the senior team as an Associate Assistant Head Teacher. This really acknowledges the importance of SEND at Poynton and ensures it is at the heart of all we do.

There is always a steep learning curve in any new role and there are lots of challenges ahead, but I look forward to getting to know you all and working with you in the future.

Best wishes
Stephen



Community Connect

On Wednesday 24th January I attended the Community connect session at Poynton Civic Hall. This was an opportunity to find out about local charities who support and improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability or autism, their parents, and carers.

Several charities were there including Speaking Up Speaking Out (SUSO), Time Out Group and Space 4 Autism (S4A).

The first two groups are for adults with learning disabilities who welcome volunteers. This would be an excellent opportunity for 6th formers who may wish to gain relevant experience when applying for university courses.

S4A is an independent Cheshire-based charity that provides a range of clubs, activities and services for children, young people, and adults with autism. Parents in particular gain a lot from this charity as it provides a great support network.

Details of all three charities are overleaf. The next Community Connect will be held on 23rd March in Disley.

For more information, please email darren.bee@timeoutgroup.org.uk or jill@maccsuso.org.uk.

Cheshire East Inclusion Conference

I recently attended the annual Cheshire East Inclusion Conference. This was a great chance to find out about updates in the area, network with colleagues and attend workshops to develop our knowledge and practice.

As many of you may know the Government released a green paper in 2023 outlining their expectations for Inclusion provision. National changes are coming and Cheshire East are being proactive and are working with stakeholders to transform SEND provision and improve inclusion across the authority. I will keep you up to date with changes as appropriate.

I would encourage all parents/carers of SEND students to have a look at the Cheshire East Local Offer. This is an online resource providing information and advice for children and adults on topics such as education, staying healthy, care and support and community activities, along with a directory of services. Even if you have visited this site before, it is worth looking at the section on SEND developments as this will tell you the most up to date information on the area's SEND strategy.

Please visit [Local Offer for Children with SEND](#) for more details.

Volunteers needed!



Come along and help out at our sessions

Time Out Group is a place for adults with a learning disability and adults with autism to have fun, make friends and learn new skills



Volunteer with us;

- Help out at fun and friendly sessions, chat with members
- All sessions run by our staff
- Based in Handforth - visits around local area
- Weekly activities - gardening, art and craft, games, sports, day trips out

- **Choose which sessions you help out at**
- **No experience necessary, training provided**
- **Expenses paid**

Improve your CV

Meet new people

Have fun

Get involved in your local community

For more information visit:

www.timeoutgroup.org.uk/volunteer or call 01625 520652



MAKE FRIENDS, LEARN NEW SKILLS FREE COURSES

FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES & OR ADDITIONAL NEEDS

WORK SKILLS
SOCIAL & LIFE SKILLS
COMMUNITY & MUCH MORE

AVAILABLE ON DIFFERENT DATES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR
GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE



SPEAKINGUPSPEAKINGOUT



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CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

This morning after another explosive outburst over nothing in particular I decided to call to your helpline. I am so pleased I did. Just hearing xxxx soothing voice instantly calmed me. She listened and cared. I feel so much better, I can't really put into words just how much better and more positive I feel. xxxx gave me practical advice and talked through the reasons why xxx may be feeling like this now. It was so good to bounce ideas around with her and I have a good action plan of what to do, try and talk about.

- Parent Carer

I spent 14 years supporting children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. I learnt so much from Ben today, I wish I could go back with a much better understanding of some of the children I worked with. I have attended lots of training courses but found none as valuable as what I picked up today.

Many thanks for offering me such a warm welcome at Space 4 Autism on Saturday. It was really inspiring to see all the great work you are doing in Macclesfield.

We found your help invaluable and were much relieved after speaking to you. It was like a breath of fresh air talking to someone who understood our difficulties.

Space4autism are just wonderful it is so nice to know that there is a charity there to help with needs before and after diagnosis.



For more information

Visit us at www.space4autism.com
email info@space4autism.org
Phone 01625 617884