

THE SPOTLIGHT SERIES

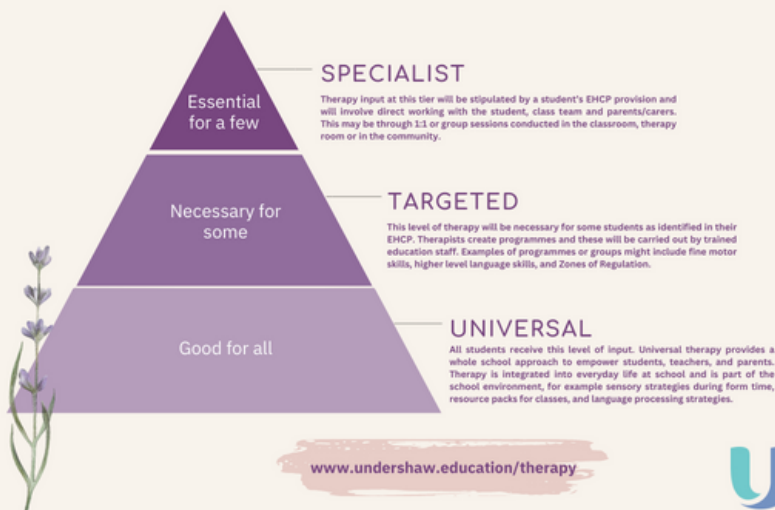


WELCOME TO

THE THERAPY CLUB

THERAPY AT UNDERSHAW

Our Integrated Approach



We begin our school year with a few new faces and a quest to develop and promote our Universal Therapy provision. This means that each tutor group now has specific therapists aligned to the class group, embedding the relationships and modelling the behaviour that the students are developing at school each day.

The Universal Programmes are delivered during Form time and encompass the Occupational and Speech and Language therapies. We're excited about our 2023-2024 year. Enjoy reading all about our plans for the future in this Spotlight and we look forward to updating you again next term.

Nicola Frankcom, Assistant Headteacher, Safeguarding and Health



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Occupational Therapy (OT)

Occupational Therapy 'the Undershaw Way' means we are having a great start to the school year! We have welcomed Ciara, our new Occupational therapist, and have been working hard on how we can deliver our OT provision throughout the school.

Our OT apprentice, Emilie, has redesigned our Universal OT programs (delivered in daily Tutor Time) to make them more interactive and age-appropriate for the students. The therapy team has been working with pupils during form times to support delivering the universal offer. This has allowed therapists to work in collaboration with the class team.



This year we will be refreshing the Therapy page of the Undershaw website to provide more signposting and effective resources for parents and students to support with independence. So, watch this space (and the website)!



Hi my name is Ciara Smyth-Price. I am a newly qualified Occupational Therapist from the University of Worcester. I am originally from Fleet, but I lived in Saudi Arabia for 6 years during secondary school. I love sports, animals, travelling, meeting new people and music. My favourite country I have visited is Sri Lanka.



*Nicky, Emilie,
Charlotte and Ciara*

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Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT)

It has been a great start to the year in the SaLT team. This year we are enjoying integrating with the teaching teams more and getting to know our form groups even better. We are now more closely linked to form groups joining form times and getting involved in the day-to-day life of our classes. All form groups are continuing to complete two Speech and Language activities per week to develop important communication skills. It's wonderful to see all the students working on their speech and language skills as a regular part of their school routine and having the support of our wonderful teaching teams.

Over the year we have exciting plans including:

- ✓ celebrating and increasing student and staff awareness of a wider range of diagnoses
- ✓ setting up our first Pen Pal project with a local SEND school
- ✓ delivering Speech and Language Therapy in the workplace to support our Post 16s
- ✓ running lunchtime enrichments jointly with the new learning mentors to reach more of our students



Abi, Hilary and Hannah

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Speech and Language Therapy focus: DLD Awareness Day

This month we are focusing on raising awareness for Developmental Language Disorder (DLD). DLD has been called “the most common childhood disorder that no one’s ever heard of” and it is likely that 2 children in every average class of 30 in the UK have DLD. Individuals with DLD have difficult learning, understanding, and using spoken language. This can impact other areas such as literacy, social interaction, and mental health. We will be training staff in DLD and have created activities and an information pack for students to learn about DLD in form time. At home, you can play word games like ‘Taboo’ to work on word retrieval strategies.

People with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) will often...



Find it hard to understand words, follow instructions or answer questions



Struggle to find the words to express their ideas



Have difficulty focusing



Have trouble saying words in the right order, having conversations or telling a story



Find reading and writing tricky



Struggle to remember what they've been told

Taboo Game

What does it feel like when you can't say the word you are thinking of?



The park

- swings
- grass
- football
- picnic

Taboo: describe the word at the top without saying any of the words underneath. Don't show anyone what your word is!

Make it easier: describe the word and you CAN use the words underneath.

Staff please print out this sheet and cut out/show students their card.

Computer	Winter	Party	Cinema
keyboard	snow	music	movie
mouse	ice	dancing	popcorn
internet	cold	food	screen
laptop	scarf	balloons	actor

Car	Bookstore	Breakfast	Garden
drive	book	coffee	plants
wheels	reading	toast	flower
engine	novel	eggs	soil
keys	writer	cereal	tree

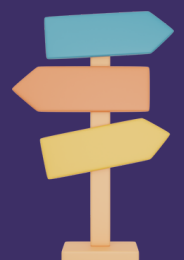


For more information about DLD, please visit the following websites:

RADLD



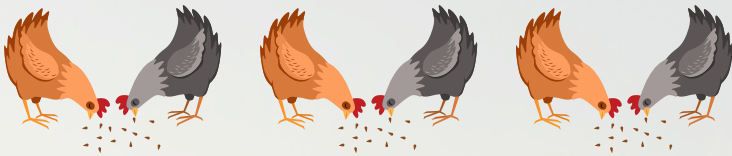
SaLUK



Dramatherapy

We have started the school year settling into our new therapy space over in the Coach House. It is a cosy space with deep eaves and lots of natural light. Our vision is to create a welcoming, comfortable, creative therapeutic space and we are enjoying working out how this will look – getting lots of feedback from the students of course!

This year we will be running a drop-in lunchtime group for the Year 11s and are looking forward to working with the young people in this important year - offering support for exam nerves or a place to come and discuss any worries.



Tiff has been very busy settling in some new feathered members of the Undershaw community – our 3 chickens named Enola, Miranda & Henrietta. The chickens were brought to Undershaw in memory of one of our past pupils, Piers Muddle, and the students are already loving the (very chatty) ladies. We will be setting up Chicken Monitors for the classes to get as involved as possible.

Kate spent a lot of time last year becoming a LGBTQIA+ advocate within the school and is continuing with this again this year. Firstly, she is creating more staff advocates who can be there should anyone need a chat. There is also a brand-new information board up in the school filled with resources, book suggestions and heroes of the month – all adding to the inclusivity and positivity of our school community.



Tiff and Kate

LGBTQIA+