

VIBE



Issue 14

November 2022

Welcome to the Autumn edition of VIBE. As we begin the descent to Christmas, we would like to share some news from the Kent Sensory Service.

Andy Taylor Retires

At the end of last academic year, Andy Taylor retired from his work as Specialist Teacher for Vision Impairment for the Gravesham and Dartford area. He has spent many years supporting children and young people with vision impairments in Kent and he is already greatly missed. We wish him well for his retirement.

Some members of the Sensory Service enjoyed a trip to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in July 2022 and here are a couple of pictures of Andy's retirement celebration.



Moving On Up The Royal Society for Blind Children are running some online sessions for young people in Year 6 or 7 as they think about moving onto a new school. It is a great opportunity to meet others of similar age and share thoughts and feelings. If you know a young person who might be interested in these sessions, please enquire at familiesfirst@rsbc.org.uk



New Teachers for Vision Impairment We have two new teachers for vision impairment joining our team. Richard Gardner will be based in the North of Kent and has had an extensive career working in a special school before embarking on this new, exciting opportunity. We would like to warmly welcome him to the team and wish him all the best in his MQ training at Birmingham University. Laura Jansa will be working with us full time and will be based in West Kent. She is currently in her second year of the MQ training at Birmingham University and again, we are really pleased to welcome her onto the team.



VI Extra 2022

On Sunday 26th June, after 3 or 4 cancelled dates due to covid restrictions, our VI extra event finally took place at Cornwallis Academy in Maidstone. On the day we had 15 exhibitors which included technology specialists, SRP's, East Kent College group, Kent Supported Employment, LookUK, Guide Dogs and outside the KAB bought along their bus, Iris.

Our team shared what we do as a service and showed parents how to effectively use iPads. The Croysutt Warriors Goalball Club demonstrated throughout the event in the small hall and also brought along Showdown, the new VI sport. All our families played this game and some became quite competitive!



Other activities included biscuit decorating and a sensory story was read throughout the day in the drama room. The event exceeded our expectations and we had 28 families attend. We were lucky enough to have donated to us from RNIB, an Alexa Echo Show. Each family were given a raffle ticket upon arrival and the winning ticket was drawn at the end of the day. We are pleased everyone enjoyed the event and would like to share some feedback from families following the day.



"I am so glad we made the drive over to Maidstone as it was totally worth it. We got so much out of it and it was the perfect balance between fun activities for the kids and knowledge building / relationship building for the parents."

"An amazing Day which was so worth going to, well organised"

"We really enjoyed the time and gathered some valuable information and ideas."

Upcoming Training Dates

15 th November 2022	Allocation Meeting - KAB Liaison
3rd January 2023	Allocation Meeting
18 th January 2023	Professional Seminar – Eccentric Viewing
31 st January 2023	Allocation Meeting

Important

If you have any news or information you would like to share, please contact:

clewis@valence.kent.sch.uk or lsteere@valence.kent.sch.uk

