

July 2025



Welcome from Victoria Courtis - SEND Lead

It's always a pleasure to write the introduction to our newsletter, which so many of our families access and enjoy. As we approach the end of the academic year, this will be our final edition until the new term begins.

We hope you've found these newsletters helpful in keeping you informed about the latest updates from the SEND Team and our wider partners. It's been a busy and productive year, full of positive changes. At the same time, we recognise the ongoing challenges both locally and nationally, and we truly appreciate your continued support and understanding as we navigate them together.



On behalf of all the services supporting our children and young people with SEND, we would like to wish you a restful and joyful summer break with your family and friends. Let's hope the sunshine stays with us!

Activities and events

Please find a selection of events listed below, more can be found here [SEND calendar of events.](#)

[Gravity SEND sessions](#)

[Climb Quest](#)

[Willen Splash n Play SEND Sessions](#)

[Xtra Special Families Events](#)

[The Parks Trust Events](#)

Short breaks

Milton Keynes City Council is working with local providers to offer **free summer drop-off sessions** for children and young people with a finalised EHCP. Bookings went live on **4 July at 10am** via the [Eequ booking system](#).

These sessions are funded by **MKCC Short Breaks** and allocated on a **first come, first served** basis. If you can't attend a booked session, please cancel in advance so another child can benefit.

Other Short Breaks Offers:

- **Sport Works** – After-school, weekend and holiday sports sessions.
- **Online Vouchers** – Use the Short Breaks portal to access providers. Some bookings may be managed directly.



Holiday Activities and Food Programme Summer 2025

The Summer HAF Programme will be running sessions from 28 July - 21 August 2025.

The HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) programme offers free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities, in the spring, Summer and winter

school holidays, for school-aged children in reception to year 11 inclusive **who receive benefits-related free school meals**.

For more information please visit [Holiday Activities and Food Programme 2025](#).

Please find the SEND Sessions available via HAF:

[SEND HAF Lets Kick It Netherfield](#)

[SEND HAF Lets Kick It Broughton](#)

[Sportsworks SEND HAF sessions](#)

[APF SEND HAF Camp - Wolverton](#)

[MK Film Club - Bletchley Youth Club SEN](#)

[APF SEND HAF Camp - Tickford Primary School](#)

Please note only families in receipt of free school meals are eligible to attend the sessions.

SEND Information Day

We were so pleased to welcome families to the Chambers in Civic on 04 July for our SEND Information Day and the launch of our new SEND Strategy Priorities. It was a fantastic opportunity to chat in person, share useful information, and help families connect with the right teams from the council and local organisations.

Thank you to all the families who came along and to the organisations who gave their time to support the day—it was lovely to see so many people there!



Improving Annual Reviews

Recently, our SEND Team hosted a “Courageous Conversation” session, bringing together representatives from local authorities across the South East region, schools, and the Parent and Carer Alliance MK (PACAMK) to explore the Annual Review process for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

This session was a structured, open, and honest discussion, held as part of our ongoing commitment to strengthening SEND partnerships. It provided an opportunity to reflect on how the current Annual Review process captures the full picture of a child’s needs across education, health, and social care and to consider how it might evolve to better recognise and celebrate each child’s progress and achievements.

This was a positive and productive session, offering space for honest reflection, peer challenge, and shared learning. It supported our preparation for future engagement and inspections and helped us identify practical ways to strengthen outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

We’ll continue working closely with families and professionals to build on this momentum and make the Annual Review process more inclusive, transparent, and effective.

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST's)

[The Mental Health Support Teams](#) work with local schools to help improve wellbeing. They provide early support for children and young people who may be experiencing some early concerns with their mental health.

The Team work across Milton Keynes in primary and secondary schools and the Bletchley campus of MK College offering early, evidence-based interventions for mild to moderate mental health difficulties.

For further information on how the team could support your child and to make a referral to the service, please see the website; [Milton Keynes Mental Health Support Team in Schools \(MHST\)](#).

Exam Results Helpline – 0800 100 900

If your child/young person has recently finished their exams and you're looking ahead to the next step, the **National Careers Service** offers free, impartial guidance for students and parents on:

Post-16 & Post-18 options
College, university & vocational routes
Resits, re-marks & Clearing
Careers, apprenticeships & funding

Open: Mon-Fri **8 AM – 8 PM**, Sat & Bank Holidays **10 AM – 5 PM**

More info: [Exam Results Support](#)

Transport

Parents and carers will be updated soon about changes to transport arrangements starting in September. These will apply to both new and repeat applications, to ensure fairness for all children using transport that the council arrange. Further information can be found on the [Local Offer](#).

Parents and Carers Alliance (PACA)

PACA AGM took place on the 2nd July. All elected officers stand for one year, and our newly or re-elected officers are below. We look forward to continuing the work of the forum over the coming year :

- Sarah Black, Forum Chair
- Sandra Yallop, Forum Co Vice Chair
- Varsha Kamath, Forum Co Vice Chair
- Tracy Bayley, Forum Treasurer



We look forward to seeing and connecting with families in the new term , please keep an eye out on our website and whats on calendar for upcoming events.
