



Newsletter Summer 2 2026

What an end to an academic year!

Summer 2 term has been a fitting end to what has been a fantastic academic year. At the end of a school year, we always reflect on the previous 12 months. It feels like, this year, we have seen more positive developments, progress and achievements than we have ever seen from Plan B students. This has made us all very proud.

This half term began with our annual school rowing week. This was not only a chance to get almost 100 students on the water in our Salters and Mcc16 rowing skiffs, but also an opportunity for some of our older students to put their learned skills into action as support crew. That not only enhanced their own teaching skills, but also helped develop their communication abilities as only being on the water can.

We have seen students really enjoying using the carpentry tools and taking more of an interest in materials and processes. Music students have really honed their chops and it has been great to see some gain the confidence to play in front of visitors from schools and show their best selves. A conveyor belt of bikes has come in and out of the engineering workshop over the past seven weeks. That has helped students prepare for the summer break by gaining more knowledge to keep themselves on two wheels over the holidays. The kitchen has continued to turn out filling breakfasts and there has been a focus on more refreshing afternoon snacks of fruit salads and cool smoothies. Those have been a welcome treat for all, but especially students who have continued to exert themselves through outdoor education, boxing awards, football, swimming, kayaking, paddleboarding and much more. We have heard lots of positive communication and seen students looking out for each other, getting on and building friendships.

We hope all our amazing students have a fabulous six weeks of summer and we look forward to welcoming them back in September.



Work-in canvas

What a busy half term our fabulous textiles team has had. From its small and stylish base in Haslar Marina, the provision continues to gain momentum as a small social enterprise giving students the skills and experience as a viable route to employment.

But how can that be? Well, it's fun, interesting, dynamic, creative, and a huge employer in the area. Let's break it down. The environment is lovely. It's a clean and tidy workspace, with dedicated areas for each specific role and task. It can be private. When a student or trainee is at a machine, it's the equivalent of hanging a "do not disturb" sign on the door. It can also be customer-facing when a marina berth-holder pops in to enquire about a repair or to drop off a sail and discuss how the team can upcycle it into some trendy or useful accessories. It's then that conversations flow, confidence and self-esteem is built and the feelgood factor goes up exponentially. Every day is different and encourages critical thinking as students challenge society's throw-away mentality, efficiently effect a repair, make use of limited material or resources, or upcycle a used item into something new. These are just a few of the reasons why students and trainees enjoy the sessions. Working alongside the very talented instructor Pablo means we will continue to develop and grow our students' ability to work in canvas - or use a work-in canvas (otherwise known as designing projects, mapping strategies, or organising workflows inside a visual template).



Box(ing) clever

Eagle-eyed readers will notice that the photos that accompany this piece do not contain students and instructors wearing gloves or holding pads. We have hundreds of fab action photos, but that tells only half of the story. This piece is about the other half. Our boxing awards scheme is governed by GB Boxing and its book is written by boxing guru Q Shillingford. As you open the tome, the first thing you see is the contents list. This begins with the introduction from the head of GB Boxing and moves swiftly on to the first section, which focuses on living a healthy lifestyle. Turning to page four, the first header is about understanding food labels. This takes students on a journey including the traffic light system to warn of sugars and salt, fats and portion sizes, and moves on to a short and simple explanation about proteins and carbohydrates. After this chapter has been read, our boxing coach holds a series of knowledge tests to ensure the information has been digested before moving swiftly on to the anatomy of the body. Students learn about each muscle group, joints and ligaments, bones and structures. This entails a level of writing and identification to show the knowledge has been delivered well and understood. Obviously the hook to these sessions is the pad work, training and physical activity. But as the title of this piece suggests, being box clever, in our case, is working strategically to gain an advantage and using tact and careful planning to get our students to engage with subjects such as food technology and biology, as well as putting pen to paper. That's a win-win.





Recognitions and affiliations

Why do we have these? The best place to begin is to say that our water sports manager, Obelix, has over 35 years' experience of getting himself and others on and off the water safely in all manner of craft, and delivering world-class instruction literally all over the planet. Yet, here he is in sunny Hampshire, putting all that experience and knowledge towards the safety and training of Plan B students. To underpin this delivery, we work with the national governing bodies of sailing (the Royal Yachting Association), rowing (British Rowing) and paddlesports (Paddle UK), who set out the legislation that governs our training. This covers the areas in which we can operate, equipment we use, qualifications and experience of instructors, ratios of staff to students, safety gear we have to carry and much more. We are also licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Authority (AALA), who sit under the Health and safety Executive (HSE) to bridge the gap between schools and the local authority and ensure that we comply with their safety requirements. It's good to host inspectors on site and invite them to scrutinise our delivery. Once all the paperwork is complete, updates discussed and boxes ticked, though, it is always great to hear that we are on the same page, and that experience really counts.





Feedback/quotes

Teacher: A massive thank you for supporting our annual activities week. The kids had a fantastic time and really enjoyed their day. Special thanks to Adam and Ob. They were amazing with the students and great ambassadors for your organisation.

Parent: Thank you Vikki and all at Plan B ... for ALL your amazing help and support. It's great to see how much T's attitude and effort and love for you guys has bloomed ... and how beautiful she really is and how proud we all are of T despite the highs and the lows she faces ... ❤️. We would be lost without the stability and support you guys have been to us
THANKYOU.

Parent: I just want to say a massive thank you to you all for what you have done for M since she started. She has absolutely loved attending Plan B and the change in her since starting has been amazing and I will always be forever grateful to you all.





This term, we have also ...

... supported Dauntsey's School rowing and sailing week; helped three work experience students on their Year 10 journeys; hosted a day for King's Academy Brune Park on the water for their drop-down week; bought a scow (a sailing dinghy that we have the moulds for); made a scow cover using the class colours of red, yellow and black; repaired a scow rudder; recycled some sails and made some fantastic bags for the boat owner; supported Plan B trainee Jae with further sewing machine work and fabrication training; wrote and produced more songs and uploaded them to Spotify for the world to enjoy; introduced more students to art and pottery; started an infectious pool challenge; donated some kayaks; made lots of birthday cakes; signed lots of cards and sang happy birthday to lots of students; supported the Prevent team in their work; played football and basketball; scootered and cycled; been given a giant Connect 4; and played lots and lots of chess...

Specific thanks to Mat Ward, Brian Nevill, Paula Padmore, Good Directions, Adam Seager, (Boris) Toby Marris, Harriet and the Jolie Brise team, King's Academy Brune Park, Paul Bush.





Here is a wish-list of donations that would help Plan B students...

You have been very kind so far, thank you. We are always looking for: more bikes, scooters and skateboards; wood; musical instruments and musical equipment including digital mixers; cooking utensils and general kitchen equipment; tools (for engineering and wood working); art equipment of any sort; footballs; equipment for summer sports such as rounders; bats and balls; basketballs (very popular); Lego or Meccano; games - anything that can be played outside would work nicely for the hot summer term.



TEAM PROFILE:

Dave Mc

Supporting coaching, fitness and wellbeing



STUDENT PROFILE:

Byron C

Learning that autism is a superpower





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