

COVID-19 catch-up funding

The government announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. Special schools (along with Alternative Provisions and hospital schools) will receive £240 for each place for the academic year 2020-2021. Below is our proposal of how this money will be spent.

Enhancement of Play at Ickburgh

The pandemic has brought home the challenges experienced by parents/carers in supporting their children at home for extended periods.

'Play' is a very significant element of learning for Primary-age pupils, both in school and at home. Playing helps young children's brains to develop and for their language and communication skills to mature. Through play, young children extend their communication, develop their motor skills, and enhance their problem-solving. Developed play skills will also support a parent/carer with looking after their son/daughter at home, as they are more able to self-occupy safely and happily.

To develop play at Ickburgh School further, the school intends to secure the traded services of an outstanding local play specialist, who can coach and develop staff practice in supporting play, but also help to create 'Play profiles' for every pupil in the Primary phase setting out their strengths, interests and areas for development, and which could transfer between home and school.



Sixth Form Café

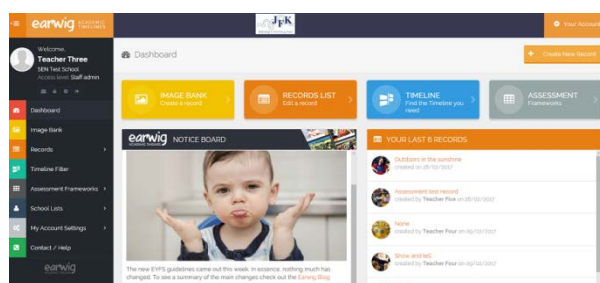
Unfortunately, the pandemic has also served as a reminder of how marginalised young people with SEND continue to be. With every new piece of information or guidance which emerged, specific guidance relating to young people with SEND would emerge days or weeks later as an afterthought. Statistics around young people with SEND moving into paid employment in adulthood remains especially bleak.

For some time, the school has discussed the idea of establishing an enterprise to support Sixth Formers towards paid employment, by providing a sustainable and ongoing vocational environment. However, creating a café or shop in the local community still feels somehow beyond the school's current operational and leadership capacity.

As an alternative, we are proposing that the ground floor food technology room which opens into the atrium is redeveloped to include a takeaway counter. Staff members, school visitors, and lettings users (e.g. Water Babies) could buy drinks and snacks from a stand run by Sixth Formers. As well as the hospitality and catering opportunities this would provide, other elements including marketing, accounting, and cleaning, could be at least in part supported by students.



Earwig and learning between home and school



The school's very significant work in monitoring and supporting 'Learning at Home', and the challenges in delivering key learning programmes at home, reemphasised how crucial the relationship between school and home learning continues to be.

'Earwig', the online assessment app which allows pupils' achievements to be captured through photos and videos, is the

most vivid and comprehensive window we can provide to parents/carers of their son/daughter's learning. During the pandemic, we were able to introduce parent/carers' accounts to a pilot group who expressed an interest. This allowed them to view learning records for their son/daughter but also create their own.

We intend on extending the use of 'Earwig' at school by significantly increasing the number of assessment tablets available in school, and extending the training and coaching provided to school staff, as well as the support provided to parents/carers in accessing the app (which requires only a smartphone, tablet or laptop). We hope the outcome will be enhanced pupil progress through an enriched relationship between home and school.