

Welcome to SEND newsletter for the end of November, I hope you and students are doing well as we advance to the end of term and , as ever, feel free to email myself in regard to any queries or information you require surrounding your child and their educational needs.

This week in City Academy:

Attendance Update

Attendance for students with SEND at City Academy continues to be strong and is currently at **89.98% - above national average of 86% and up on last week by 0.4%**. Your hard work is vital on getting students here and on time, thank you. I am hoping to report a push into 90% and beyond from next week.

Year 11 Intervention – P6

Year 11 Intervention has continued with excellent attendance and a rigorous attitude to additional intervention. This is supplemented by 1:1 support provided by the SEND team on subjects such as English, Maths and Science. If you want more details n Period 6 intervention, or have concerns regarding your child and revision , please get in touch with the Head of Year, Mrs Stanley, or myself.

Reviewing of Passes for January 2026

As a school, we currently use a range of passes to support students, including:

- Time-out passes
- Early leave passes
- Lift passes
- Medical passes
- Toilet passes

Over time, the number of passes in circulation has increased significantly. This has led to some inconsistency and, at times, an over-reliance on passes rather than classroom strategies and resilience building. We are therefore reviewing our whole-school approach to passes for January 2026. Our aim is to:

- Ensure long-term medical and toilet passes are supported by medical evidence
- Put in place a fair and consistent system
- Help students to develop independence and resilience over time
- Replace most current passes with a more efficient and sustainable system

A consultation will be sent to families in the next week, and your views will be extremely important in shaping this approach.

DLD Together Course for Parents/Carers

This Autumn Term there is a free “Secondary DLD Together” course for parents and carers of secondary school children with a diagnosis of Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).

The course was created by Afasic and NAPLIC and supports families to better understand and support their child’s language needs at home and in school.

International Day of Disabilities (IDOD) 3rd December 2025

The 3rd of December is the IDOD day that is celebrated by UNICEF and around the globe as we focus on this year’s theme of ‘Access to all’ . This has been communicated to our students in assemblies this week as they look to develop inclusive minds at school and in the wider community.

CAT PAC Autism Parent Course

We would like to invite families to the CAT PAC (Communication and Autism Team Parent Awareness Course) for parents and carers of children with a diagnosis of autism or who are on the neurodevelopmental assessment pathway. The course runs online via Microsoft Teams with sessions across November and December 2025 and covers: autism awareness, social communication, sensory differences, supporting teenagers, emotional wellbeing and signposting services. To secure a place, please email: A2EGeneral@birmingham.gov.uk

Subject: *Secondary CAT PAC Online – Autumn 2025*

Include your name, your child’s name, school and CAT worker (if known). Places are limited and will be offered on a first-come basis.

Course dates:

- In person: Wednesday 26 November, 9:15am–3:00pm at Ninestiles School (lunch provided)
- Online follow-up: Thursday 4 December, 9:15am–10:45am via Microsoft Teams

To register your interest: <https://forms.office.com/e/m8We1pj7XW>

For support completing the form or queries, contact: kate.starr@birmingham.gov.uk

Further Information and Contact

If you have concerns about your child’s provision, please email myself at SParkes@corecity.academy

You may also contact my line manager Mrs Patel, Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and Safeguarding.

Thank you for your continued support. Together we are building a strong and inclusive community where every student feels confident, secure, and ready to succeed.

Best wishes
Mr Parkes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sh. Khan'.

SENDCo, City Academy