

Autumn Term

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2025 Edition of the SEN Bulletin.



DSPL3 have updated their website and it is now jam packed with helpful information for both professionals and families. The website includes details of free upcoming training courses and workshops, information if your child is struggling to attend school, SEND parent coffee mornings, service directories, contact details and much more. Here is the website link [Developing Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) 3 – Home](#) and/or Facebook page: DSPL3



Coffee mornings for parent and carers are hosted by DSPL 3 and are designed to offer valuable information and giving families a chance to connect with each other and share experiences. There is also a chance to ask questions or discuss topics that you are concerned about with professionals. Here are the details for the upcoming coffee mornings:

24th September 2025	10 - 11.30am	Abel Smith School, Hertford , SG13 8AE
12th November 2025	10 - 11.30am	High Wych School, Sawbridgeworth , CM21 0JB
21st January 2026	10 - 11.30am	Beane Valley Family Centre, Watton-at-Stone , SG14 3QA
18th March 2026	10 - 11.30am	Christ Church School, Ware , SG12 7BT
20th May 2026	10 - 11.30am	St Michael's School, Bishop's Stortford , CM23 3SN
15th July 2026	10 - 11.30am	Buntingford First School, Buntingford , SG9 9HZ

Assess Plan Do Review – APDRs

In the autumn term we will be inviting parents/carers starting with **Year 9s on 8th October** for an APDR via Teams. This is an opportunity to review and discuss SEN support. You will receive an email with details on how to book.

Dyslexia

In each termly bulletin, we focus on a need, looking at how that presents and strategies for support.



Dyslexia is a specific learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing/spelling skills. Someone with dyslexia may have difficulty processing and remembering information they see and hear. This in turn can affect learning, the acquisition of literacy skills and impact areas such as organisational skills.

Dyslexia frequently co-occurs with one or more other developmental difficulties, including developmental language disorder, dyscalculia, ADHD, and developmental coordination disorder.

Dyslexia is underpinned by difficulties in:

- Phonological awareness which is the ability to perceive and manipulate sounds in words
- Verbal memory which is how we process and manipulate verbal information
- Verbal processing speed which is the ability of retrieving familiar words quickly and accurately
- Visual processing speed which effects recognising familiar words with accuracy and speed
- Sequencing and structuring information
- Perception
- Short term memory
- Processing
- Writing and copying accurately
- Following and understanding instructions
- Structuring essays and written work
- Organising work and revision schedule

- Taking clear notes
- Keep losing their place when reading
- Handwriting
- Works slowly
- Sentence structure is poor
- Disparity between verbal and written response

To help support a student with SLPD/Dyslexia we employ the following learning strategies:

- Use of mind maps and frames to plan/organise work
- Visual resources
- Use of a coloured overlay
- Experiment with background and text colour on the computer
- Break large tasks down into small manageable chunks
- Highlight key words
- Worksheets to highlight and annotate
- Think/pair/share approach with peers
- Not being asked to read aloud in class
- Instructions are clear and concise



The
Dyslexia
Association

For more information and support please find the link to the Dyslexia Association:

[Home - The Dyslexia Association](#)

We welcome our new Year 9s this term, so we have tried to answer some of the questions you may have.



What to Expect at Freman College Q&As



How will teachers know my child's individual needs?

Each student on our SEN register will have an 'Info for Staff.' This outlines a child's SEN and strategies to use to support their learning.



When can I first meet with a member of the SEN team once my child has started Freman?

You will have the opportunity to have an Assess Plan Do Review (APDR) which is a 20-minute Teams meeting with a member of the SEN team. During this meeting we can review their strategies and see what is working and what is not working.



Is there a safe space my child can use at lunch and break times?

Students can use the Redgrave for their lunch and break times. There is no need to let us know in advance they can just turn up. The Redgrave is always manned by a member of the SEN team

A member of the SEN team will meet with your child within the first 3 weeks of them starting Year 9. We will then talk about how they have settled in and review their support, making any changes needed.



Will a member of the SEN team check-in with my child once they have started at Freman?




Who does my child see if they have any issues or are struggling?

They can speak to their tutor or alternatively if they have a key worker in the SEN department they can also speak to them.




My child struggles with change, how would you support them with this?



My child has never done French before, how will they cope with these lessons?


French in Year 9 starts at a basic level and is design to be accessible to everyone. Lessons are taught through games and interaction so a student with no prior knowledge will not be disadvantaged

If a student struggles with changes to the college routine, a member of the SEN team will give them the 'heads-up' explaining what will happen and answering any questions they may have.




During their first few weeks at Freman, what if my child gets lost ?

As well as their new timetable detailing the subject, teacher and classroom each student is provided with a map of the college to help them navigate their way around. On hand during these first few weeks are our SLT (Senior Leadership Team), teachers and support staff who are always happy to show a student where a classroom is. In those first few weeks, students are not penalised for arriving a little late to lessons if they have got lost.



What clubs are available at Freman?

There are a variety of clubs available catering for a wide range of interests, from sports such as football, hockey and netball to arts, crafts, Lego and Dungeons and Dragons. Students are notified when clubs are happening on tutor notices. The full list is on display in each tutor room and around the college.



My child has always struggled with homework and I'm worried how they will cope with this at Freman, is there any support available?

We have homework club every lunch time, in the Billiard room which is located in the Redgrave. This is run by a Teaching Assistant to give support as and when needed.



Further Info

If you would like any further information on anything included in this bulletin please email

l.coles@freman.org.uk