

# James Brindley Academy

## Birmingham Children's Hospital Newsletter



Birmingham  
Children's Hospital

## WELCOME

The aim of our newsletter is to inform children, young adults, families and staff about the educational support patients here at **Birmingham Children's Hospital** are receiving from **James Brindley Academy!** Our team of teachers provide support for pupils ages 3 - 18 years. If you are not already receiving educational support from our dedicated team and would like to, or for more information about our work, don't hesitate to **contact us on 0121 666 6409 ext. 2312.**

## TO INFINITY AND BEYOND...

From January 2022, we will be delivering a **thematic curriculum** for our pupils. Each term we will focus on a specific topic to **immerse** our pupils in!

For Spring term, pupils will delve into the **mysteries of Space** and the great beyond in a cross curricular project. This project complements **key skills from the National Curriculum** which pupils would be focusing on in their home schools. It is intended primarily for our **short-term** and **medium-term pupils**, but our longer-term pupils can access this also. For our longer-term pupils, we strive to work closely with their **home schools** to ensure there is as **little disruption to their education** as possible and deliver the lessons that pupils would miss out on.

*Meet the team!*



Hello, my name is **Nadine Gregory** and I am one of the teachers here at **BCH!** I am an experienced primary school teacher, and love to make my teaching sessions as hands on as possible! I know that often parents and pupils feel a little worried about being taught by someone they don't know, but we are **just like any other school**, complete with a team of dedicated teachers who want to create **positive learning experiences** for our pupils!

Our team of hospital teachers have lots of experience working with **pupils of different age ranges and ability levels** and we are all sensitive to how our pupils may be feeling during their stay in hospital. As such, we are adept at structuring our lessons in a way that **supports our pupils' recovery** and adapts to their specific medical needs.

For myself, my favourite subject to teach is Maths! I can't get enough of numbers!! I do **teach a range of subjects and age ranges** however and thoroughly enjoy the variety that being a hospital teacher brings! In a typical day, I may be supporting a nursery aged pupil learn how to spell their name and then be supporting KS2 pupils preparing for their SATS! I find teaching here at Birmingham Children's Hospital such a **rewarding** role; I feel so **privileged** to meet with and work with so many fantastic pupils and parents and help be a part of a **pupil's transition back into school.**



We can't wait to explore the topic of **Space** over Spring term for pupils staying in hospital, and we're positive pupils, parents, and the medical team, will enjoy venturing **'Out of this World'** with us!



@JBA\_Live jba\_live @JamesBrindleyAcademy

# ASK THE EXPERT

**Name: Naomi Ravn**

**Role: Teenage Cancer Trust Clinical Nurse Specialist**



## Can you tell us about your role?

I look after young people aged 13 years and above who are having treatment for cancer. I work in a small team with another clinical nurse specialist and a youth support coordinator. We support young people for two years after their treatment. This support varies and can include psycho social support, body image issues, ensuring young people are aware of their diagnosis and treatment plan, as well as supporting them move to adult services when the time arises. We see young people in both outpatient and inpatient settings. Our youth worker can also offer outside activities to help develop peer relationships, parent support groups and monthly Zoom catch-ups and activities.

## What do you enjoy most about your work?

I love seeing young people gaining confidence and being able to go to school, see their friends and enjoying life outside of the hospital setting - this takes such a lot of effort and is often a long process for some of the young people we care for.

## What is the proudest moment of your career so far?

When I see young people who have been through treatment talking to other young people, encouraging them in their own cancer journey and experience. It is so powerful and takes so much bravery for both young people to do.

Calling all pupils, parents and carers, we would love to hear from you!

Complete our short survey...



# 5 MINUTES WITH ISMAIL

Year 6 pupil **Ismail** has been receiving educational support from us for some time now. We interviewed Ismail about his experiences during his stay at hospital...



## What are you currently enjoying most about your lessons?

My favourite subject is **History** where I am really enjoying learning about the Mayans! I really like doing this **one-to-one with the teachers** and I feel like I have learnt so much! I have found out when and where they lived as well as many interesting facts about the Mayan empire! In Art, I even made a Mayan death mask which was **really fun!**

## How were your studies interrupted when you were diagnosed?

I was first diagnosed in March 2021 and I stopped going to school. I only started going back to school in November 2021. I have had to attend hospital regularly to receive chemotherapy.

## How have you managed to combine studying with your diagnosis and treatment?

In total I have not attended school for 7 months since my diagnosis, but now I am attending **on a phased return**. For the first week back I only attended in the morning and then began to attend full time again before unfortunately being admitted back into hospital. Although I am disappointed to be back in hospital **it is good to see my James Brindley Academy teachers again and I really enjoy one-to-one teaching.**

## What are your ambitions for the future?

I really like school and want to stay in school for as long as possible. I'm going to study for my **GCSEs and A-Levels** as I want to go to university and study Maths or History! My mum has a Masters degree so I may even study for one of those too! I want to be **my own boss** when I'm older, so I definitely want to do something in business, like maybe property development.

## Do you have any advice for another young person trying to study whilst undergoing treatment?

I think that it's really important to **stay positive**. Also, please **don't feel guilty** for not doing as much as you could do before you were ill. Some days I feel too poorly to do any school work and I've learnt that that's ok and **not to put myself under too much pressure.**

## What do you think of the educational support that James Brindley Academy provides?

It's very important! I didn't want to go back to school as I was scared I would have fallen behind and wouldn't be able to **keep up with my classmates** but the support from James Brindley teachers has helped me keep on top of my school work and still be on the 'top table!' Having lessons in the hospital is also something that I look forward to when I am here. I also really **enjoy using technology to learn!** I would like to say thank you to the teachers at James Brindley for helping me whilst I was having chemo. I know my mum has been really pleased that I have had **access to school during my stays in hospital** as it's helped me slot back into my home school easily and helped me **stay positive** at times when I have been feeling very poorly.