



MagiKats Spring Newsletter 2017

Low Fell Tuition Centre – Principal Joseph Hodson

A Bright Start

Our first students are enjoying the programme and making excellent progress thanks to the compelling curriculum and activities, our fantastic mentors and their own hard work. We love working at The Nest although avoiding the temptation of all those tasty cakes every week is difficult!

News about the National Curriculum!

MagiKats revision programmes cover all the key requirements for EYFS - GCSE and are reviewed against the national criteria every year to make sure that they are always up to date!

Those in Years 2 and 6 will be the second cohort to be tested against the new National Curriculum. As this is the second year of this testing, and the associated reporting system, we are now clear on the standard required. The answer is – these tests are demanding! We are, of course, ensuring that everyone receives the support that is relevant to them.

GCSE exams are this year's big unknowns!

2017 sees the first sitting of the new exams and we are busy offering the best support possible to our year 11s. We are working with a careful eye on their challenges to come. We will report back once we have seen the actual papers.

Grades from 2017 will be expressed as 9-1 rather than A*, A, B etc.

Did you see the infographic we posted on Facebook about the new GCSE grades?

*New students must enrol for at least 3 months.

Exams coming up?

If you are in a SATs or GCSE year then you will have started the revision programme. If you feel that you need a boost on a particular topic (within the Maths or English syllabuses) then let us know asap - so we can help! We are also able to support 11+/entrance exam preparation. Ask if you would like details.

Even if you are not in a SATs or GCSE year - let us know if you hit problems - the MagiKats programme is there to help you with what you need, when you need it.

Spreading the word!



Some of the team sharing the fun and chocolate at Low Fell Library Easter Fair.

Referral Scheme

Do you think we're doing a good job? Why not tell your friends about it?! For every new student that you refer to us we'll give you back £10!*



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The Realities of Summer – Thinking Ahead!

We are all looking forward to seeing the sun but it is the time of year when some students will soon be facing the challenges of SATs or GCSE and we will all be into the academic "silly season". Serious matters, exams and the like, will alternate with school trips, sports days etc. before the LONG summer break. Continuity will disappear.

A plea on behalf of all students. The summer is NOT the time to take a break. MagiKats workshops and summer homework are all of the interesting variety - not just number crunching or spelling lists. The work will, nevertheless, save students from the often disastrous fall back that happens between June and September. Moving "up" a year or changing school is a very hard time for all children. Being at the top of their game can help and, of course, we then provide on-going support and continuity with the challenges of new environments, teachers, homework and so on.

If you have concerns about the months ahead - please have a word.

Workshop topics for those not working on revision programmes

Stage 4/5 students

Maths:

Ratio and proportion
Probability
Order of operations, rounding, exchange rates
Algebraic substitution

English:

Reading for meaning
Active and passive voice
Empathy
Standard English

Stage 3 students

Maths:

Percentages
Division or decimals, long division
Pie charts
Reflection, translation, symmetry, rotation

English:

Presentation
Reading comprehension: poetry
Standard English
characterisation

Stage 2 students

Maths:

Measuring, standard units
Ordering and comparing numbers
Fractions
Multiplication and division

English:

Reading comprehension: fiction
Writing poetry
Summary
Singulars and plurals
Story structure: fictional writing

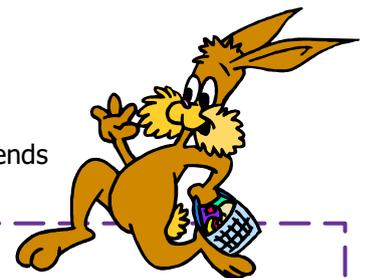
Stage 1 & Foundation students

Maths:

Counting forwards and backwards
Hundreds, tens and units
Missing numbers in sums, magic squares
Fractions
Multiplication as repeated addition

English:

Tenses
Narrative
Consequences: story writing
Phonics: final sounds and initial blends
Engaging with texts



Where does MagiKats fit in?

Education has been the hot topic in the UK in recent times and our children are at the sharp end of many changes. Here is a quick summary, for easy reference, of the challenges from Years 1 to 11.

Year 1: phonics screening in June

Year 2: KS1 tests in May

Years 3 & 4: dealing with "grown up" approaches

Year 5: prep for KS2 tests/11+/entrance exams

Year 6: KS2 tests and preparing for secondary school

Year 7: adjusting to big school

Years 8 & 9: KS3 foundations for GCSE (some start now) Years 10 & 11: GCSE course and exams

We are with them every step of the way!