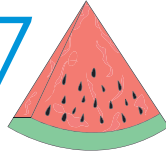


TCES Group Bulletin

Summer 2017



**clinical
corner**

**create
service**

**schools
news**

EFS Witham pupils learning to crab during Leadership Week (see page 7)



East London
Independent School



North West London
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School



Create Service
Personalised Therapeutic Education



CEO welcome



I always feel that the end of an academic year provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on our achievements and successes, and to look back at the highs and lows of that year.

Over the past 18 years TCES Group has grown organically as a social enterprise, continually working to improve and develop new schools and services for the pupils we have

the privilege to work with. Our commitment to continuous improvement means that as an organisation we have learned to adjust to swiftly changing political or legislative climates to keep our trajectory upwards.

I am aware and, of course, extremely thankful that our staff teams work so hard to ensure they meet my vision of running schools that are inclusive, thriving, socially and emotionally healthy communities. It has been very rewarding over the past academic year to see this resulting in pupils and staff in our schools finding a real voice, evidence of real inclusion and education without labels securing access for all.

This process of change started in the Summer term of 2016 with the launch of a particular focus on the development of our school staff teams to support them in the delivery of excellence. It has been driven by an absolute conviction that we know what 'inclusive' really means and how 'outstanding' as a judgement is both obtained and maintained.

We were delighted therefore when, shortly after receiving its 'outstanding' result from Ofsted, our efforts at NWLIS

were validated through the award of an Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM), which you can read about on page 10. Having now established a national model of excellence around inclusion we are currently working towards the IQM award across all our schools.

In this issue, as well as reading snippets about what each individual school and Therapeutic Hub has been up to during the Summer term you can also find news of our group activities, including Cultural and Leadership Weeks plus our annual competitive inter-school football tournament and, of course, one of the highlights in our school calendar - our Celebration Day.

Parents and commissioners, please remember that we are always happy to welcome you to our schools to meet with our staff and find out more about the results we're achieving with the children you place with us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our readers a relaxing and enjoyable Summer and we look forward to welcoming our pupils and staff back to school in September.

Thomas Keaney,
Chief Executive & Schools' Proprietor

- | | |
|---|---|
| 02 CEO welcome | 10 North West London Independent School (NWLIS) |
| 03 In the news: Inaugural residential trip | 11 East London Independent School (ELIS) |
| 04 In the news: Mock general election | 12 Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS) |
| 05 Cultural Week at ELIS | 13 Create Service Essex |
| 06 Promoting British Values | 14 Create Service London |
| 07 Leadership Week | 15 Clinical Corner |
| 08 Celebration Day | 16 And finally... TCES Group Football Tournament |

The TCES Group Bulletin is produced by the TCES Group. We run three independent day schools and two specialist services called Create, providing education for pupils who find it difficult to access learning opportunities within their current setting. As a social enterprise we have a clear social purpose, detailed in our governing documents and we reinvest the majority of our profits.

Our schools are:

East London Independent School
(Stratford Marsh and Custom House)
Essex Fresh Start (Clacton and Witham)
North West London Independent School (Acton)

Our Create Services are:

Create Service London (Romford and Barking)
Create Service Essex (Witham, Clacton and Wickford)

TCES Group, Park House, 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ

To make a referral, please call: 020 8543 7878 (choose option 3) Email: referrals@tces.org.uk | www.tces.org.uk | [@TCESgroup](https://twitter.com/TCESgroup)





Inaugural residential trip for ELIS Student Council

On 15 June Student Council members from both ELIS sites met for only the second time as they embarked on a residential trip to Grangewaters. The first of its kind for TCES Group pupils, the trip was deemed a huge success and provided an ideal opportunity for the two groups to bond and learn from one another. Two older Stratford Marsh students went along as peer mentors, to help and support the group's transition to one joint ELIS Student Council.

For many of the pupils, the trip meant facing numerous obstacles so they needed to work hard to challenge themselves and overcome anxieties. For some, staying away from their families

for the very first time was an enormous achievement in itself.

While away, pupils had a lot of fun, gaining new experiences and learning new skills. There were games to play, such as rounders and football, and activities including sailing and archery. Among the team building exercises was the building of a late night bonfire.

Staff members who accompanied the pupils remarked on how much the Student Council members grew during the trip. Carlton Cameron, Group Lead for Ongoing Provision said, "I walked with three boys across the field and we had a conversation about the sunset, a beautiful sight hovering above the lake.

These boys were so amazed at a sight they would not see in their everyday lives. Their faces really told a story!"

Carlton also reports having received phone calls from parents telling him how full of excitement and joy their children were after the trip.



Teaching Talent team grows



Our in-house recruitment agency has been working hard this year, recruiting leaders, teachers and support staff for our schools. This can often be on a last-minute basis, for instance providing replacements for members of staff who are unexpectedly absent, making Teaching Talent an essential lifeline for our school leaders. A recent new initiative that has proved successful was organising block interviews for our Create Service at the Teaching Talent offices.

To help expand its services into an external market, Teaching Talent is delighted to welcome Debra Doughty and Geoff Ocran to the team, as Business Development Manager and Recruitment Consultant respectively. Debra, who



Left to right: Rio, Maria, Ivona, Debra, Charnelle and Geoff

is already known to many TCES Group staff, is working closely with Geoff to grow business and brand awareness outside the TCES Group. They join Senior Recruitment Consultant Maria, Recruitment Consultant Ivona, and Compliance Administrators Rio and Charnelle, increasing the Teaching Talent team to six. info@teachingtalent.co.uk

TCES Group @TCESgroup Jun 20 Loving our newly hatched chicks at EFS Witham.



TCES Group @TCESgroup May 25 East London Independent School, Custom House begin a series of motivational assemblies #inspiringschools

TCES Group @TCESgroup May 2 Huge congratulations to Myles at NWLIS for passing the Silver Arts Award with 'flying colours'. Thanks to @LyricHammer @YoungLyricHamm

TCES Group @TCESgroup May 2 Fridays #school photoshoot with @photoguspix looks fab - here is our NW London school in #Acton with their #Ofsted outstanding banner #send



TCES Group @TCESgroup Apr 25 The first Parent Voice Group at ELIS CH was welcomed by attendees who found it really useful. Lots of plans for future meetings/workshops.

TCES Group @TCESgroup Apr 24 NWLIS staff ran arts & crafts sessions during the Easter holidays. Here are pupils enjoying being creative.



In the news



Autism Show 2017

For the fourth year running, TCES Group exhibited at the Autism Show London at ExCel during June. The two-day event attracts anyone with an interest in Autism or Asperger syndrome and hosts talks and workshops in addition to the numerous exhibition stands located around the hall, providing a myriad of information for visitors.

A team from TCES Group worked on the newly designed stand over the two days, meeting with nearly 200 children and adults, including parents and healthcare, education and social work professionals. We were delighted to welcome ELIS pupil Anthony and his mother to the stand, where they were pictured with Kevin Parker, Co-Head of NWLIS. Anthony said, "The Autism Show is really good because it helps people understand Autism and gives them ideas how to handle other people."



Mock general election

As the nation went to the polls on 8 June, staff and pupils across the TCES Group did likewise, staging our own mock elections. Being one of the British Values, there is great emphasis placed on democracy within our schools and services, so pupils were encouraged to take an active interest in the general election through discussions, debates and assemblies in the days leading up to the election.

Once all votes had been counted, the EFS outcome echoed that of the nation, resulting in a hung parliament. However, staff and pupils at ELIS, NWLIS and Create London gave Labour an outstanding majority of between 58% and 70%, again reflecting their local results. Across these sites the other parties (Conservative, Liberal Democrats, Green Party and UKIP) gained around the same number of votes.



ELIS SM pupil Razaq discussed the different manifestos during his English class on 7 June



Voting at ELIS Custom House



Leo casting his vote at NWLIS



EFS voting

Cultural Week at ELIS

Cultural Week was held across the Group towards the end of the Spring term. Here are some highlights from a busy week at ELIS, during which pupils were also able to sample a different culinary experience each day, drawn from European foods native to the UK.

Custom House

The week began with workshops led by African drumming group IROKO. Rudyard Kipling's poem, 'The Stranger' was used to explore the relationship between xenophobia and difference.

Pupils worked in groups on Tuesday, finding and photographing places of worship - churches, mosques, mandirs and gurdwaras - across Newham and Tower Hamlets.

The British Value of Democracy was explored on Wednesday with hustings and elections to the School Council. Deputy Head Teacher, Lillith Osborn says, "The presentations were simply outstanding and the leadership potential of our pupils was amply demonstrated." Later that day there were visits to historical sites relating to the Anglo Saxon and Medieval history of the area.

On Thursday a wonderful storyteller presented a unique perspective on race, culture and class, through several artistic mediums.

The week was rounded off by a 'Sharing Assembly', during which everyone reported back on the activities and places they'd enjoyed. Each person placed their 'Who am I?'



(their photo, a brief description of where their family are from and a flag) on a world map, joining their place of origin to Newham with a piece of string. The final result - a striking visual representation of the diverse community at Custom House - now adorns the wall of the main corridor.

Lillith Osborn concludes, "Cultural Week was a great success and we will now build on this to develop British Values and inspire interest in diversity. Pupils enjoyed learning about different cultures and their awareness of diversity increased, both within the school and the local community."

Stratford Marsh

On Tuesday, Creative Mindfulness workshop leader Sola told stories about success, courage, tolerance and acceptance of others as well as ourselves. He taught some valuable lessons and demonstrated through storytelling and drumming how everything is about perspective, highlighting how people can look at things and see only one side of the story. He explored the benefits of being patient and talked about how to use breathing techniques to stay calm. He talked also about having courage to overcome difficult situations by using all the resources within and outside of us when faced with a challenge, such as information, friends, etc.

In keeping with the theme of British Values and tolerance of other faiths Sola left pupils with a positive phrase in Swahili - 'heshima' (meaning honour and respect) - and a reminder that tolerance of others starts with accepting ourselves and sometimes forgiving.

Wednesday's assembly was delivered by Andrew Mohammed who started the day with positive energy, focussing on mutual respect and the importance of pupil voice to spread a culture of respect. Pupils then spent time on creative writing, through a story cypher and drama with Afrikan Boy.



Pupils performing their steel pan skills for the community police

Thursday's assembly reflected on Montenegro culture, storytelling traditions and some Ghanaian traditions. There were contributions from Spanish culture and traditions in worship by the Spanish teacher Rocio, culminating with a traditional dance demonstration by Flamenco dancer Joaquinna, who led pupils and staff in creating their own flamenco sounds and movement.

The day ended with a true celebration of the Stratford Marsh community with certificates and awards for all pupils.





Promoting British Values

The rule of law

Continuing our theme of discussing one British Value in each bulletin, this term we're looking at the 'rule of law', the last but by no means the least, of the four values.

In our teaching of this value, we help pupils to distinguish right from wrong and ensure that school rules and expectations are clear and fair. Our system of rewards and consequences helps us to do this. We also encourage all in the school community to treat each other fairly and advocate not doing anything illegal.

Colourful wordles and rewards boards feature in most of the rooms used by pupils across all TCES Group schools and Therapeutic Hubs, acting as a reminder of the 'rule of law'. These have been created through consultations with both staff and pupils, making each sign unique and relevant to that community. Classroom high-fives show the rules that pupils in each school have agreed between themselves, which are again different across each site.

Our Classroom High Five Behaviours for Learning



The four British Values: democracy; rule of law; individual liberty; and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs, are outlined in the TCES Group vision and mission statement and form the foundation of everything we do. We believe that helping our pupils to develop such standards is crucial preparation for post-school work and adult life.

Local MP visits EFS Clacton

During Leadership Week Giles Watling MP visited EFS Clacton to talk to Nurture Group about how the Government works. The pupils had prepared questions prior to his visit, including: his life as an MP; his family and how they feel about the additional security he needs as an MP; his pets and his previous job as an actor. Following the visit, pupils are writing a newspaper style report on what they learned. We look forward to seeing it!

Elainor Lloyd, Inclusion Manager said, "This was a very successful visit. All pupils presented as mature and professional in their approach and are a credit to us all!"



Mikey welcoming Giles Watling MP



Part of the community

Sue Lawler, the West Ham Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) visits ELIS Stratford Marsh every Tuesday morning and joins in with whatever the topic of conversation is on the day, adding a valuable police or law perspective. For instance, she recently joined pupils for a discussion on bullying and racial difference and on another occasion pupils had questions she was able to answer on social



PC Sue Lawler enjoying the Garden Party at Stratford Marsh

media and the law. PC Sue also frequently joins Student Council meetings and enjoyed the Garden Party held at the end of term.

Leadership Week

Developing young leaders

Every TCES Group pupil from KS2 upwards now has the opportunity to take part in leadership skills training. We believe that by first learning to understand themselves, pupils develop strengths and talents in leadership that can be channelled effectively to offer benefits for the individual, their group, the whole school and their communities beyond TCES Group.

Pupils progress to mentoring their peers and to taking on leadership roles within school, such as election to Student Council. Formal Accreditation in leadership skills is offered by the Duke of Edinburgh Award or Sport England Leadership. These feed 'informal' opportunities; currently

Y11 pupils are 'teaching' younger pupils the art of music production as well as film-making and editing.

Our leadership curriculum was launched in June, with each school holding a specific Leadership Week bursting with exciting activities designed to teach leadership skills.

EFS Witham

ASC Secondary pupils visited every other class to teach them about what it is like to be diagnosed with ASC and to share some of their own experiences. After outlining some typical autistic characteristics they explained that most people have some of these to a varying degree and that the difference between those diagnosed and not diagnosed is the severity of the characteristic.

They then taught other classes how to photo edit. Most pupils had their picture taken then edited their own head onto a body of a famous person or onto an object. You

can see these pictures on the big rainbow, which was put up in the hall to celebrate that everyone shares some of the typical autistic characteristics.



At the end of the class, pupils being taught were able to identify certain statements as typical autistic characteristics and could tell the difference between those diagnosed and not diagnosed (the severity).

Meanwhile, Primary pupils completed challenges in the forest such as building bridges and dams, and were taught to crab by Y7 and Y8 peer mentors. In exchange, they took picnic orders for their mentors, then shopped for lunches using their own budget. One Primary pupil led a clearly enjoyable game of hide and seek in the long grass.



ELIS

ELIS pupils began Leadership Week with a visit to the Kelvedon Hatch Secret Nuclear Bunker. The bunker started its life as an RAF ROTOR Station, then had a brief period as a civil defence centre before becoming a Regional Government HQ. Its connections with leadership are obvious. It was designed for up to 600 military and civilian personnel (possibly even the Prime Minister), their collective task being to organise the survival of the population in the awful aftermath of a nuclear war.

But... the pupils also got to explore the bunker's other 'secret' attraction – the opportunity to take part in team-building, high-wire activities and aerial rope climbs. Pupils learned to adopt basic elements of teamwork, collaboration, trust and communication and in doing so took steps towards increasing their leadership skills.



NWLIS

Leadership Week was crammed with activities. On the first day pupils created a poster of quotations, either from famous leaders or from pupils themselves. Later in the week an ex-member of staff, who now works as a comedian, came in to join them for a group process meeting.



Celebration Day

Celebration Day

Climbing Champions:

Based on teamwork, encouragement and supporting each other

NWLIS



Overall Celebration Day Champions:

Team that epitomises the seven values of Celebration Day: respect, courage, determination, excellence, friendship, inspiration and equality

EFS

Yvette Barlow Award winner:

For the best progress in ICT

EFS: Harry

Create Essex: Jay

ELIS: Callum

Create London: Callum

NWLIS: Myles



Best pupil progress winner:

For the pupil who has progressed the most academically based on assessments and exams

EFS: William

Create Essex: Caelen

ELIS: Rohan

Create London: Rustamus

NWLIS: Yassin

Best pupil progress runner up:

EFS: Joshua

Create Essex: Jay

ELIS: Numayr

Create London: Jonathan

NWLIS: Laquain

Most improved pupil winner:

Based mainly on pupil's behaviour and points as well as related work effort

EFS: Tyrese

Create Essex: Jamie

ELIS: Jalal

Create London: Kane

NWLIS: Laquain

Most improved pupil runner up:

EFS: Ned

Create Essex: Oliver

ELIS: Zubin

Create London: Nathan

NWLIS: Faith



On 11 July all TCES Group schools and services came together at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre for our annual end of school year Celebration Day.

Pupils and staff enjoyed a range of sporting activities including raft building, climbing, abseiling, canoeing and kayaking. As well as having a lot of fun, pupils were able to learn new skills and demonstrate their team working abilities.

As always, the intense rivalry resulted in some worthy trophy winners at the awards ceremony held at the end of the day.

Prizes are based on how pupils adhere to and demonstrate the seven TCES Group Values:

Su English Award winner:

For outstanding achievement in Speaking and Listening

EFS: Liam

Create Essex: Marcia

ELIS: Qasim

Create London: Fehzan

NWLIS: Hussein





- **Respect** – fair play; considering the needs of others first; knowing one’s own limits; and taking care of one’s health and the environment
- **Excellence** – how to give the best of oneself, on the field of play or in life; taking part; and progressing according to one’s own objectives
- **Friendship** – how, through sport, to understand each other despite any differences
- **Courage** – getting out of comfort zone. Courage is about being strong, brave and steadfast despite difficulties, sadness and pain. Courage is what allows you to overcome adversity and to try things that might otherwise scare you
- **Determination** – not giving up, being certain that you will achieve what you set out to do and treating failure as an opportunity to learn rather than as a reason to give up
- **Inspiration** – looking at others to find out who you really are
- **Equality** – treating others as equals.



Celebration Day Team Player Award winners:
Based on performance throughout the day, a pupil who encapsulates and demonstrates the TCES Group values, through courageous determination, assisting and inspiring fellow team mates, respecting those around them and leading by good example
Laquain, NWLIS
Rohan, ELIS



Celebration Day Raft Building Champions:
Based on teamwork during the construction and sailing of the rafts
ELIS
Raft Building runner up:
Create Essex



Celebration Day British Values Champions:
Based on the team epitomising the four values: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs
Create London

Best pupil attendance winner:
For either the pupil with consistent 100% attendance, or pupil who has made the biggest improvement
EFS: Archie
Create Essex: Jordan
ELIS: Antony
Create London: Joshua
NWLIS: Diaz
Best pupil attendance runner up:
EFS: Jamie
Create Essex: Marcia
ELIS: Lee
Create London: Dont'e
NWLIS: Joshua

Janet Dean Award winner:
For outstanding effort or improvement in numeracy and literacy
EFS: William
Create Essex: Jay
ELIS: Harry
Create London: Jubayer
NWLIS: Myles

Most supportive staff member winner:
As voted for by the pupils
EFS Witham: Ross Gerrie
EFS Clacton: Jim Redd
Create Essex: Michelle Booth
ELIS Stratford Marsh: Michael Otchere
ELIS Custom House: Natasha Burns
Create London: Dan Mascia
NWLIS: Paul Morris



Inclusion Quality Mark 2017

In March, NWLIS was awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM),

validating the school's inclusive status. IQM is a nationally recognised framework designed to 'guide' schools by evaluating and measuring how they are performing on their inclusion journey. Says IQM's website: 'Inclusion promotes equal opportunities for all pupils, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, attainment and background. It pays particular attention to the provision made for, and the achievement of, different groups of

pupils within a school and any pupils who are at risk of disaffection and exclusion.'

"The school works very hard to create an environment where everyone can learn in an atmosphere of mutual support and respect." IQM report

Our ultimate goal is for the full inclusion of our SEMH and ASC pupils together, and the reduction in bullying at every level.

This essential inclusion work is achieved through individual relationship mentoring as well as group work with multiple groups including: Student Council; Anti-Bullying Council; Community Council; Group Process; Tutor Groups; Group and Celebration Assemblies; Leadership Group Training and Group Therapy.

"The school's learning environment is very well thought out with excellent learning spaces including a very well equipped sensory room. Displays are very good and clearly demonstrates the school's inclusive ethos." IQM report



Art and Design subjects gathering pace at NWLIS

The art department has continued to thrive, with a total of five pupils taking full GCSEs this year in a range of art

and design related subjects: two pupils have completed their Art and Design GCSE; two have completed their Graphic Communication GCSE; and one pupil has completed a Photography GCSE.

Good results are expected; the coursework has been moderated with results due in mid-August. Meanwhile, a shorter Art and Design GCSE course has been completed by another talented NWLIS pupil.

Well done to all pupils who have worked so hard towards their GCSEs – we expect to publish their results in our Winter Bulletin. Left, a selection of Laquain's GCSE Art coursework.



'Hidden talents' revealed at NWLIS staff INSET day

An INSET day was recently held across the Group. With pupils on leave for the day, the staff at North West London Independent School took part in preparations for the launch of next year's Creative Arts Curriculum.

The aim of the day was to enable staff to inspire and encourage their pupils in developing their own talents.

Given just half an hour's notice to practise, staff came up with some lively performances – some had astonishing voices, with others displaying considerable musical talent.



Says Co-Head of School Kevin Parker, "Staff revealed hidden talents and surprising qualities when asked to perform in front of colleagues ahead of next year's Creative Arts Curriculum."

We look forward to seeing what talented individuals our pupils are when it comes to their turn to participate!

Find out more: kevin.parker@tces.org.uk and katrina.medley@tces.org.uk





Stratford Marsh new phase of redevelopment

At the end of May we embarked on an exciting new phase of redevelopment for our Stratford Marsh site.

Those of you who have visited Stratford Marsh will be aware of the pre-existing church that stands to the left of the school. This latest phase of redevelopment will see the church hall transformed into a new part of the school.



The inside of the church as it was

The first duty for our contractors was to seal off the building area from the rest of the school and to board up all existing fencing that can be looked through. Temporary construction buildings will be built adjacent to the school



playground, with the most notable change being the construction of a high wall that will run next to the car park. We'll be reporting on the transformation from church to school building throughout its progression.

Student Council elections

Staff were really impressed by the preparations made by seven Custom House pupils before they delivered presentations about their suitability to be voted on to the school's Student Council. CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said, "They presented with real bravery, but also displayed incredible kindness in their simple wishes to help the school, other pupils, our neighbours and the elderly etc. It was very touching to hear such passion for helping."

As a result, each of them was awarded a place on the Student Council and reminded of the responsible and privileged position they were taking on. They are:

- **Primary and KS3 representatives:** Raysharne and Mahfuz
- **Co-Presidents, representing Ongoing Provision and KS4:** Maison and Lee. Lee also took on the responsibility for Community Charities Council
- **Little Leader (his words) or Vice President:** Furkhan
- **Treasurer:** Zubin
- **Anti-Bullying Ambassador:** Jordan

Staff are all very proud of the genuinely lovely and very kind pupils we have at Custom House.

Football stars

On their triumphant return to ELIS Stratford Marsh, as winners of the 2017 TCES Group football tournament, two players were awarded special trophies:



Vlad presents Dominic with a trophy for sportsmanship



Razaq (right) congratulates Rohan for winning ELIS player of the tournament

Find out more: dorothy.elliott@tces.org.uk

Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS)



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School

Transforming the playing field

Both primary and secondary children at the school have enjoyed working with the Wildlife Trust over the past year in all weathers. They've helped dig and make a fedge (a cross between a fence and a hedge), which has broken up the school field nicely and is now growing well. Treasure digs (holes) are used to dig for buried treasure. There are hammocks and rope swings which they enjoy playing on. Vegetable trugs are used to grow pupils' own herbs and vegetables, which they cook with, while a log circle around the fire pit is used every week to cook different things, such as pizzas, pancakes, popcorn, marshmallows, fruit, etc. This year they've made a den out of willow trees, called a willowdome and have planted three fruit trees - apple, pear and plum - having tasted all the fruit that the trees produce.



Staff and pupils at EFS Witham making good use of some old pallets (and the lovely summer weather!) to build a bug hotel in their forest school



You said, we did

Student Council members from both Witham and Clacton joined the Management Development Group (MDG) meeting in July, where they impressed staff with presentations about themselves and their individual roles in the Student Council. Each group also ran through the different projects they're currently working on and those that have been completed during the Summer term.

"My role as entertainments manager is to organise and plan trips for the school. I also have to get votes from other pupils for the end of term school trips." Tyrese, Entertainments Manager

Many of the items for the playing field, shown above, were requested, agreed and purchased via the Witham Student Council by pupils. This includes a friendship table, volleyball post and picnic benches.

The Clacton Student Council provided a highlight of the meeting by arriving armed with an excellent video they'd produced in advance, outlining their

"I am hard working and want to help make a difference. I became school councillor because I can be a great role model to younger people." Josh, Student Council President

agenda – 'a safe and friendly outdoor environment for play and social time within our school.'



Can we transform our play area



A safe enjoyable surface

Find out more: cheryl.rutter@tces.org.uk

Donating to a worthy cause

Following a talk from Rev Andy, Create Service Essex pupil Kate (not her real name) was keen to collect items for the Colchester Food Bank and enlisted the help of fellow pupils and staff, from Wickford and Clacton.

Staff helped Kate to organise a special non-uniform day when, rather than bringing in money for charity, pupils brought food and toiletry items as donations. That day pupils were visited by

an inspirational speaker – an ex-convict and boxer – who brought two bags of items to add to Kate’s collection of items.

Kate will be joining other residents from her care home to deliver the collected donations to Colchester Food Bank on 3 August, when she will also be helping to sort and distribute the items.

The Colchester Food Bank provides emergency food and support to local people who are in crisis.



Luke with his donations

Well done Luke

Luke joined Create Essex in September having been out of education for some time. In one academic year he has



achieved an impressive 17 awards and qualifications, including academic, vocational and life skills accreditations. During the last weeks of term Luke chose not to attend activities with the other pupils so that he could study for his mathematics GCSE.

Caroline Brookes, Senior Social Worker and Inclusion Manager for Create Essex said, “It has been wonderful observing a young man with very low confidence and self-esteem feel able to take some ownership of his education and make positive choices. Luke is leaving us feeling hopeful about his future, having secured a place at college for September to study landscape gardening. We all wish him well.”

Find out more: nick.rigby@tces.org.uk

Family holiday club!

EFS Witham is planning a new and exciting initiative this summer to encourage parents to become more involved in their children’s school. Parents and pupils are invited to join staff on 16 August from 10.30 – 14.30 hrs at the school.

The day will provide a chance for pupils to take part in activities together with their parents, carers, brothers and sisters. Activities will include a Wildlife Trust experience, art workshop, football and an E-safety workshop for parents and carers. Lunch will be provided for all attendees.

Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter says, “Our listening culture ensures that parents’ voices are heard. We’re aiming for the inclusion of all our parents and carers and would like them to feel comfortable in using their voice and contributing to school life. We hope that this special day will help us achieve this aim and look forward to welcoming parents, carers and families to EFS Witham.”



Y6 pupil’s PowerPoint creates a buzz

Creative Y6 pupil George has designed a book about bees using PowerPoint. You can see his fabulous designs below. We love how he uses a mix of bright colourful images with factual pieces, showcasing perfectly how much he has learned. “I find bees interesting because they are insects and the colours - the bright yellow and lovely orange colour,” George explains.



Join us on 16 August
10.30 - 14.30 hrs



Art room flourishes

The new Art room at the Romford Therapeutic Hub, which we introduced in the Spring Bulletin, is living up to everyone's hopes and expectations.

Create Service tutor, Aneela, who set up the room with pupil Millie, has now been joined by a second Art teacher, Santiago. Together they've been working hard with Millie and another Y10 pupil in the preparation of their Art GCSE coursework. A selection of their amazing artwork is shown here.

There are plans to expand and refurbish the Art room during the summer break, ready for these girls to progress to AS levels next year and for an older student to join them to take an A level in Art.



Gold and Bronze ASDAN Awards

Create London uses ASDAN Personal Development Awards to engage new pupils and to allow them to develop their interests across a wider range of subjects. This year, they have been used to accredit a range of different sport and leisure activities, including football and gym sessions and taster sessions in golf, group bowling and go-karting.

Pupil successes this year include:

- **Dont'e – Gold Award** (after achieving Silver last year and Bronze the year before) for completing projects on racism and Banksy, including his own stencil art
- **Nathan – Bronze Award**; using his love of music, particularly the music of Roy Orbison, to profile the singer, write his own song and learning to perform a song on the guitar that he performed on video.
- **Kaden – Key Steps Award**

ASDAN describes itself as a 'pioneering curriculum development organisation and awarding body, offering programmes and qualifications that explicitly grow skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life.' Its established Personal Development Programmes (Bronze, Silver and Gold) offer imaginative ways of developing, recording and certificating a wide range of young people's personal qualities, abilities and achievements, as well as introducing them to new activities and challenges. All the programmes link to nationally recognised qualifications.



Stencil art by Dont'e

Find out more: colette.ferns@tces.org.uk

Clinical Corner

The TCES Group Clinical and Therapy Team works in our schools to deliver the therapeutic element of our 5 part curriculum

Director of Inclusion and Clinical Services

One of our long term strategic objectives has been to strengthen the governance around TCES Group's Clinical and Inclusion services. We are therefore delighted that Peter Finn is now working for the Group on a full-time basis in his new role as Director of Inclusion and Clinical Services.

Peter has already worked with us for some years on a part-time consultancy basis, shaping and developing the TCES Group model and its delivery as a Director and Board Member. His experience, qualifications and professional stature will continue to make an immense contribution to the growth and development of the Group.

He will help to drive our long standing commitment to offering our pupils industry-leading levels of integrated therapeutic support, both in terms of the expertise and experience of our in-school Clinical and Therapy Services Team and in the range of therapeutic support available.

We believe that to realise the full potential of each young person in our care we must support their educational,

emotional and behavioural needs in a truly personalised and holistic way. The pupils referred to our schools are presenting with increasingly complex needs at a time when access to services in child mental health and social care appear to be reducing.

In response, we are investing heavily in our Clinical and Therapy Services team. Led by Peter, the team provides high quality services for all pupils placed in our schools: when required our pupils have the support of our Consultant Psychiatrists and Psychologists and in-house Clinical Psychologist, Drama and Art Therapists, SALT and OT. Under Peter's direction, TCES Group's direct delivery model of therapy, offering universal services targeted to meet the needs of individual pupils, will continue to develop.



Peter Finn, Director of Inclusion and Clinical Services

Meet our Occupational Therapists

Our Occupational Therapists see pupils individually or in small groups outside the classroom to address skill development in an activity-based setting. They use therapeutic intervention to augment the school curriculum to help pupils develop underlying skills that are important for learning. This includes: social skills development; sensory-motor processing; visual motor and visual perceptual skills; fine motor coordination; and activities for daily living. The therapists consult with other school staff in order to integrate therapeutic goals into the pupil's daily programme.



Dominique Saffigna

Dominique Saffigna works at ELIS (Custom House and Stratford Marsh) and also at Create London. Having recently arrived in the United Kingdom from Australia, Dominique has worked in paediatric Occupational Therapy roles since graduating. Her previous jobs include working in a special school for children with developmental delays, neurological and cognitive difficulties, Autism, Down syndrome and Fragile X Syndrome. Additionally, Dominique has experience working in a private clinical setting with a high-functioning Autism population and children with sensory difficulties. She is passionate about giving every child an equal opportunity to reach their full potential and believes that with the correct intervention, support and education this can be achieved.



Rebecca Lunn

Rebecca Lunn works at NWLIS, EFS and Create Service Essex. Since graduating from London South Bank University with a Post Graduate Diploma at Masters Level, Rebecca has worked as a community-based Occupational Therapist in a variety of settings in the private and public sectors. She has experience in working with both adults and paediatrics with Autism, ADHD, ADD, mental health needs, learning disabilities, sensory processing disorders, challenging behaviour and physical disabilities. Rebecca also has over 13 years' experience of working in the Performing Arts and Visual Arts with children and young people with SEMH needs, Autism and ADHD. Rebecca is enthusiastic about empowering young people to reach their full potential by providing therapeutic interventions and strategies tailored to their individual needs.

Find out more: peter.finn@tces.org.uk

And finally...

TCES Group football tournament

Wednesday 17 May marked the annual TCES Group inter-school football tournament and what a day it was! Brentwood Leisure Centre played host to some amazing scenes – more skill and sportsmanship than a World Cup final and goals that Cristiano Ronaldo would have been proud of.

Teams from EFS Witham and Clacton, ELIS, Create London and NWLIS gathered on what began as a dark and dreary day. However the pupils' skill levels, respect and teamwork shone through and the rain held off.

Congratulations to ELIS who, for the third year running, walked away with the coveted trophy. They won a tense and exciting final on sudden-death penalties following a 1-1 draw against Create London/EFS Witham. NWLIS claimed third place after beating EFS Clacton on penalties.

Special congratulations were extended to the Create London/EFS Witham team who have never played together before yet got to the final. Their result and teamwork was a testament to the respect shown to one another.

There was fierce competition in every match, with lots



of celebration after each goal was scored. For many of the players this was their first TCES Group inter-school tournament and, without exception, they all said how much they were enjoying it.

Matt White, an HLTA from EFS said, "From an organisational point of view it couldn't have been better. Nicky Palmer had sorted the organising before the tournament. I then had the fun task of managing the teams on the day itself; staff and students alike making it very easy by understanding what was expected of them and listening to what they had been told. Teamwork, fair play and respect shone through from the sidelines, making staff all around feel proud of what the pupils have become."

Awarding prizes at the end of the day, Head of Create London Colette Ferns said, "I'm proud of all the pupils. It's great to see them coming together in good spirits, with pupils showing friendship towards other teams, while also demonstrating commitment to their own school teams."

Many thanks to everyone who helped organise this tournament and well done to all the players.



NWLIS Class of '17 graduate with flying colours

14 July saw pupils Laquain, Michael, Mikel and Myles graduate from NWLIS in a moving and celebratory ceremony attended by fellow pupils, parents, staff and special guests Andrew 'Papa G' Mohammed, Father Fergal and Janice Heath and Danijela Kabrielan from SEN Connections in Brent.

With touching speeches written and articulated by fellow peers Aaron A, Aaron O, Tia and Hussein, the audience was invited to share in the incredible journey that Laquain, Michael, Mikel and Myles have undertaken during their time at NWLIS.

In September Laquain begins a Business Studies course at West Thames College in Isleworth. Both Myles and Michael will stay on at NWLIS to continue their studies



Myles, Laquain and Michael at the graduation

in Y12 as part of our ongoing provision.

We wish these four young men all the best for their futures. You have all achieved so much already and we are all proud of each and every one of you.