

TCES Group Bulletin

Summer 2019



20 Year Anniversary



East London
Independent School



North West London
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School



Create Service
Personalised Therapeutic Education

CEO welcome



I am excited to welcome you to this 20th birthday issue of our termly TCES Group bulletin. Since last November, all of our key foundation events have had a 20th anniversary theme – some of these, including our annual football tournament and celebration day, you can read about over the next 15 pages.

As part of the celebrations, the group has been entered for awards schemes for the first time, and we're delighted to have been shortlisted for the 'Most Inclusive Practice Across a School' award by the National

Special Educational Needs and Disability Awards 2019. The team also put me forward for the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the National Diversity Awards 2019 and I feel honoured to have been shortlisted for this award as well.

I am both thrilled and honoured by this external recognition of our work. Over the past 19 plus years we believe that we have learned, through continuous improvement, how to successfully engage with some of the most complex children and young people in the country, with severe mental health problems, co-morbid autistic spectrum conditions and challenging behaviour. I am proud to say that in this time we have never permanently excluded one of the 3,000 plus pupils that we have educated. I believe that we have been very privileged to support these pupils, and that without our support too many of them could have ended up becoming negative statistics in terms of unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness or prison. The vital investment in these young people reduces the emotional cost to them and their families and the long term and a very significant financial cost to society.

On a sadder note, we've said goodbye to several long-standing members of staff who have shared a significant part of this 20 year journey with us. I'd especially like to mention Cheryl Rutter, Head Teacher of EFS, who retired this term after 15 years with TCES

Group and who will be sadly missed. Her retirement preceded the closing of our Witham site and coincided with a busy term for all involved in transitioning both pupils and staff into either our EFS Clacton or ELIS sites. My thanks go to all staff teams who were part of this transition and ensured that at all times the needs of the pupils remained their number one priority.

We have also made changes to Teaching Talent, creating efficiency by bringing the recruitment of agency staff into our central HR team. At the same time we are excited about the prospects of further developing our Teaching Talent Tutoring service.

Our Alumni Mentor scheme continues to go from strength to strength. Some of these pupils have also been involved in a research project, run by Goldsmiths University, which is exploring the effect TCES Group has had on their lives, now they've left school. We'll be able to bring you the results of this project in the next bulletin, at the end of the year.

I do hope that you enjoy reading this issue and that you've enjoyed the summer. We now look forward to an exciting term, during which you will be celebrating our 20th birthday with us in November.

**Thomas Keaney, Chief Executive and Schools' Proprietor
@TCESgroupCEO**

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This Bulletin is produced by TCES Group. We run three independent day schools and a specialist service called Create, and provide education for young people aged 7-19 years with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs or a Autism Spectrum Condition.

Our schools are:

East London Independent School (*Stratford Marsh*)
Essex Fresh Start (*Clacton*)
North West London Independent School (*Acton*)

Our Create Services are:

Create Service London (*Custom House*)
Create Service Essex (*Clacton*)

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

In the news



Recent tweeting from @TCESgroup

TCES Group shortlisted for two national awards

Staff and pupils at TCES Group celebrating our 20th anniversary have more to cheer about, as the group has been recognised and shortlisted for two national awards.

The whole group has been shortlisted for the 'Most inclusive practice across a school' award at the Special Educational Needs and Disability SEND Awards 2019. Meanwhile, CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney was shortlisted for the 'Lifetime Achievement' National Diversity Award.

The announcements are a welcome addition to our 20th anniversary celebrations. Since 1999, TCES Group has ensured that diversity and inclusive practice have been reflected throughout school staff and management, and that pupils are surrounded by role models

from their own communities and backgrounds. East London and North West London Independent Schools already have the 'Inclusion Quality Mark', and Essex Fresh Start is working towards it.

Mr Keaney was shortlisted out of 48 other nominees in his category after votes from 28,000 people. He said: "I was very honoured and humbled by the nomination and shortlisting, and never expected it. The real thanks go to my truly inspirational staff who transform our pupils' lives every day through real inclusion, and those who go the extra mile for our SEND and care-experienced children."

Both ceremonies take place in September, where the final results will be announced.

School specialisms for 2019/22

All TCES group schools and services have chosen curriculum specialisms to concentrate on over the next three years, from September 2019. These are based on the particular strengths or opportunities in their locality and will be in addition to the Young Leaders programme (delivered through the LIFE Programme) that is a specialism across the TCES Group.

Kevin Parker, School Improvement Partner, said: "The intention is that all specialisms will provide opportunities for all pupils to get active, have fun and be creative. Most of all, they have

the chance to really succeed in the specialist area. Through detailed plans, our staff teams are working to very high expectations in terms of provision and outcomes, requiring dedicated lessons and targeted enrichment opportunities in order to meet the goals. These include Level 2 qualifications for pupils in these subjects."

Pupils will be able to choose a potential career path within the specialism and gain personal awards. Each school will be working towards quality marks within their specialist areas – watch this space for further updates.

September 2019/22 specialisms

Create Service	EFS	ELIS	NWLIS
Performing Arts	Outdoor Learning	PE: Health, Fitness and Wellbeing	Creative Arts
Leadership: TCES Group LIFE Programme			

@TCESgroup Aug 20

We're really proud to announce that 2 of our NWLIS pupils achieved B and C in their #Alevel Art. Both young men have an exciting future plan in place and represent an amazing achievement by them and our NWLIS Art teacher.

@TCESgroup Aug 15

EFS pupils gathered for a Sports Day on the last day of term - we're loving the photos! Head of School Elaine Lloyd said: "We saw an impressive amount of support, collaboration and a great sense of community. There was no better way to end our school year!" #schoolsports #ASC #SEMH

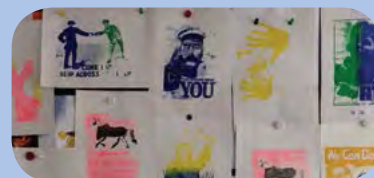


@TCESgroup Jul 16

Some of our ELIS pupils took part in a #yoga, #mindfulness and #wellbeing session - we love the photos! Sessions like this, with @activ8fitcamp, are an important part of our #ASC and #SEMH curriculum.

@TCESgroup May 14

Our Create Service students learnt all about #WorldWar2 propaganda, through the medium of a #screenprinting workshop. They carefully crafted some intricate stencils, then printed them onto a mix of paper and canvas. We love the results! #artinschools #SEMH #ASC #SEND



In the news

ELIS Summer Camp

TCES Group Wellbeing Coach Ben Green held a summer camp for ASC pupils over the holidays. Pupils were welcomed to a series of activities, including arts and crafts, sports and development workshops.

Ben said: "A six-week break is very long for these pupils to be out of school and routine. The build-up of

anxiety can be quite overwhelming for our pupils as school re-approaches, so we hosted a summer camp as a support tool."

The camp was a great success, with Ben and his team hoping to expand it across other TCES Group schools in the future.



Presenting at the Autism Show

TCES Group staff representatives attended the Autism Show, held at the London ExCel in June, ready to spread the word about our services among passers-by.

Hundreds of visitors stopped by the stand, taking an interest in our schools and services. Some stopped by and sat with staff members for as long as 20 minutes, asking for advice on placements or to arrange a visit to a school.

Thomas Keaney, CEO and Schools' Proprietor, took to one of the three theatres at the event to deliver his talk 'School Life Without Labels', in which he presented a number of TCES Group's strongest educational attributes – such as our Group Process, and Pupil/Parent Councils – to a large audience.

ELIS pupil Olumide's parents (above) were at the show and stopped by to say hello. Ola said: "Our son is really doing great at ELIS. We have seen significant improvement in him ever since joining the school. We enjoy our good working relationship with the school staff. Well done!"

Also at the event was Willard Wigan MBE, who visited NWLIS in September 2018. Willard presented his own



talk at the show, presenting his micro-sculptures along with an in-depth look at how he creates them, crediting his Autism for giving him his ability to create such unique art. He spoke with Adele Stedman, Head Teacher at ELIS, who hopes to plan another school visit.

Alex Manners, a popular public speaker on his life with Asperger's, was another presenter at the show, and stopped by the stand to say hello. Arrangements have also been made for Alex to deliver his popular talk at a TCES Group event.

Continuing to 'Reach Out'

The new 'Reach Out' programme, in which TCES Group is offering mainstream schools and academies advice on how to prevent permanent exclusions, is making good progress.

School Improvement Partner Kevin Parker said: "We invite schools to join us in our mission to harness the potential of all young people to be responsible, productive citizens and young leaders of the future. Our advice is based on our systems and processes that have successfully prevented permanent exclusions since

TCES Group began twenty years ago."

During the Summer term, Kevin and Thomas Keaney, CEO and Schools' Proprietor, continued their work with Ridgeway Academy, whose Principal Mike Bennett visited TCES Group last term.

The academy is looking for support for its ongoing vision for a 'Reflection Hub' and a 'Reconnect' resource. Kevin said: "We also learnt a lot about our own practice from our visit to Ridgeway, and congratulate Mike on his imagination, transparency and

vision – we look forward to hearing about his successes in the future.

TCES Group is currently considering requests for support from local authorities as well as mainstream schools and academies in London and the South East. As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, we are offering the programme **free of charge**.

To find out more please contact Kevin: **07891 672674** or **kevin.parker@tces.org.uk**.

Parents and Carers page

Curl Camp at NWLIS

Members of the NWLIS Parent Council are helping young pupils of African-Caribbean descent learn how to maintain their hair through 'Curl Camp', an initiative set up between themselves and Lateefah Elcock, Pastoral Care Coordinator.

The camp, which took place over two days and will occur once a year, was set up in response to multiple requests from young, primarily male pupils at the school, who wanted to learn how to style their hair themselves.



Over the course of the camp, attendees learnt how to wash, style and maintain their hair. Then, after booking an appointment, pupils could attend a pop-up hair salon for a final styling.

Tray, a participating parent, said: "Lateefah mentioned the camp during a parent coffee morning and a few of us were happy to come along and help. I have already signed up for next year's camp as it was so much fun!"

Parents at NWLIS have established their Parent Council for next year, and still have some slots open. The Council meets for coffee every term and is open to all parents and carers. Please contact the school if you are interested in joining.



Staying safe online

Assertive Outreach Tutor Tunde Ladeinde has been helping advise Create Service parents how to keep their children safe while online, through a helpful workshop.

Tunde said: "I wanted to familiarise our parents and carers with some online risks, and the parental control settings of the most popular apps and devices that we see used at Create."

Parents were acquainted with the

features and risks of chatrooms and livestreams, the benefits of private browsing, and how to set controls on sites such as Twitch and devices such as PlayStations. Tunde also shared a variety of online resources to support parents in discussing use of the internet with their children.

Those interested in advice and resources can contact Tunde at babatunde.ladeinde@TCES.org.uk.

Join the EFS Parent Council

EFS is searching for parents and carers of pupils who are willing to join the Parent Council at the start of the next academic year (2019/20). The Council is a brilliant chance for any parent/carer who would like to get more involved in the school community.

Most recently, EFS parents assisted with the Summer Fayre, and have helped arrange and attend many events in the past.

Those interested may contact: Lisa Hosking on **01255 225204** or lisa.hosking@tces.org.uk.

ELIS Summer barbecue

Parents and carers were invited to join staff and pupils at ELIS for their end-of-year summer barbecue, celebrating a year of great achievements at the school, as well as TCES Group's 20th Anniversary.

A new Parent Council is being established at ELIS next term - those interested in joining should contact Pastoral Care Coordinator **Leona Talian** on **020 8555 6373**.



Young Leaders

NWLIS Garden Project

A lot of progress has been made on the NWLIS Student Council's outdoor area project that was reported in last term's bulletin.

Among the requests, which the Council collected from fellow pupils and presented to the senior leadership team, were a new sensory garden, artwork and murals around the walls for a brighter space, and maintenance work on the grass and playground area.

So far, new grass and plants have been planted, pupils' artwork has been blown up to a large size and placed along the walls, and the outdoor furniture has been restored.



Volunteering in the community

Members of the NWLIS Student Council have been helping their local community by offering to trim and weed their gardens. Pastoral Care Coordinator Lateefah Elcock said: "It's been a really good way of letting our pupils introduce themselves to our neighbours and demonstrate their abilities as young leaders and role models."



ELIS Student Council nets a win

The Student Council at ELIS has been working with the school's senior management team to have new basketball hoops and goals installed in the playground. The Council was granted their request on the condition that a greater awareness of keeping school property in good shape was needed within the community.

The Council has also been focusing on litter around the school this term, figuring out how to raise awareness of the environment with their classmates.

Anthony, the Council's Chair, composed a letter to local businesses, asking for help funding the necessary recycling bins, and Council members have been working on a poster campaign to display around the school, encouraging classmates to recycle.

LIFE success at EFS

EFS Clacton pupils have been working exceptionally hard towards the LIFE programme, according to Head of School Elainor Lloyd.

Liam and Dillon both successfully achieved their Gold awards, and there are many others following closely behind.

Elainor said: "Our pupils continue to prove their outstanding leadership qualities and independence skills by creating work, and demonstrating their abilities through tasks, events and completing qualifications. Watch this space for more of them accomplishing great things!"



Maison settles in well as new Alumni Mentor

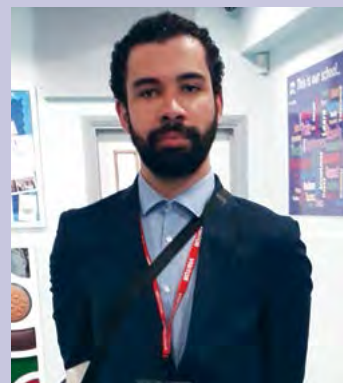
In our Spring 2019 issue, we were excited to announce the arrival of former student Maison as an Alumni Mentor at ELIS.

Maison has since integrated into working school life incredibly well, according to Pastoral Care Coordinator Leona Talian.

Leona said: "He has completed all his training, and held an assembly in front of the whole school on mentoring, his role,

and his vision for the year.

"Students have taken really well to Maison and welcome him in on a weekly basis. His confidence has grown, and he works his way around the school helping where he can. He has made great progress with some of the primary classes, and can often be found in music classes, as it's a passion of his."



Football Tournament



Sportsmanship to be proud of

The annual inter-schools football tournament this year included some notable differences in honour of the company's 20th anniversary.

Hosted by the West Ham United Foundation, teams wore specially commissioned kits in colours selected by the schools themselves, all adorned with the special anniversary logo.



"We shared the ball well and no-one was greedy with it. I've really enjoyed working with everybody on my team. I'd like to come again!" – Odene



Led by ELIS PE Teacher Eddie Szostak, the event showcased TCES Group pupils' ability to be outstanding sports people, as they gave it their all in six-a-side matches.

Throughout the event, pupils were spotted working excellently in their teams, motivating each other, and shaking hands with their opponents – even picking them up off the floor after a connecting tackle.

Eddie said: "Thanks to the commitment and attitude of the pupils, hard work of TCES Group staff and the organisation of the day by West Ham United Foundation staff, the

"I'm the only KS2 girl in the tournament, but my teammates have made me feel confident around them, and I love playing in my school team!" – Kenza

"I enjoy the rush of being in goal, and being the Vice Captain of my team. We practised almost every week!" – Kaden

Motivational talk

While off the pitch, pupils were invited to join Korede, an apprentice coach, who shared accounts of his own negative experiences as a young teenager, and how his life was turned around by his role at the foundation.

He told pupils about his gang related experiences, how at 13 years of age he started selling class A drugs, and his first arrest for carrying a knife. Unable to secure a college placement or job, he was taken on by the foundation, and his life has been improving ever since. He advised our pupils that the most important lesson he'd learned was that he needed to change his friends and the community he surrounded himself in.

football tournament was a great success. Pupils showed competitiveness and sportsmanship in equal measure, and the games were played in great spirit."

Des Walter, Teaching Assistant at EFS Clacton said: "Our team played incredibly well. Although they lost all their matches, they continued to play in the spirit the tournament was intended, despite the temptation to throw in the towel. They showed incredible sportsmanship, and were true champions in my eyes."

Fitness Coach Ben Green said: "All the pupils have got on really well, and there's been a great sense of community. The sportsmanship has been excellent too, with players from opposing teams helping each other up after tackles, and very few arguments."

Despite some nasty weather creeping over from above, there was a warm and sunny window in which organisers, along with CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney, led an awards ceremony.

Mr Keaney said: "Our staff work extraordinarily hard to support our pupils to settle into life in school and to begin to see themselves as the successful young leaders that they can be – today, that work came to fruition.

"I witnessed teams of pupils representing their schools with real pride and commitment. Just as importantly, they showed brilliant sportsmanship throughout."

The 'Players of the Tournament' trophy went to Joe (NWLIS) – upper school, and Jamie (EFS Witham) – lower school. Odene (ELIS) was given the trophy for the 'Sportsmanship award', and both upper and lower schools from NWLIS won the 'Champion team' trophies.

Celebration Day

Overall Celebration Day Champions:

The overall award for the 2019 event went to the team who epitomised the seven values of Celebration Day: Respect, Courage, Determination, Excellence, Friendship, Inspiration and Equality – Essex Fresh Start.



Once again TCES Group's annual Celebration Day proved to be a huge success. This year, staff and pupils from across all our schools and services met at Stubbers Adventure Park to take in a variety of challenges.

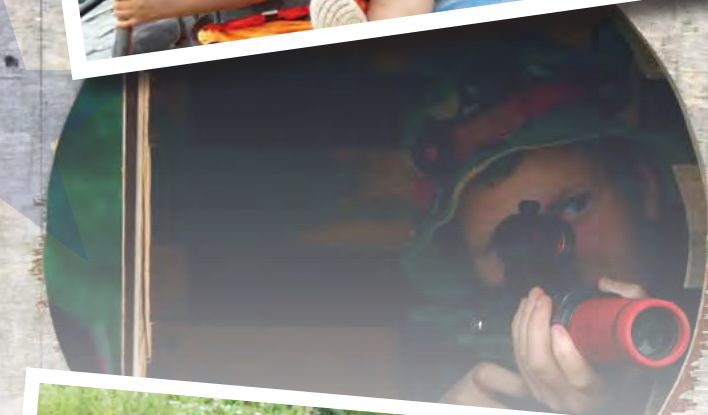
Pupils were placed in groups and accompanied by their teachers, who also joined in with the fun. Each group faced a series of challenges, taking on activities such as bell-boating, raft building, rock climbing, crate stacking, archery, laser-tag and more. Central Services staff also left their desks for the day in order to act as a judging panel.

Tasks were designed to help build confidence, demonstrate teamwork and strengthen communication skills. Judges were impressed by a number of accomplishments, such as pupils overcoming their fears or stepping up to lead their teammates along the way.



Leadership Award:

The only trophy for an individual pupil went to **Liam** (below), who stood out from the crowd by showing real leadership skills and acting as a role model for TCES Group's Community Values. Liam was spotted encouraging his EFS teammates, helping them overcome fears and keeping team spirits lifted throughout the day.



A number of awards were given out during a ceremony at the end, where CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said: "Today's event, during our 20th year, has been terrific. A huge round of applause is deserved by each and every one of you. Our incredible staff have been looking out for our pupils and taking care of them all day, the team from Stubbers have been incredibly supportive and great to work with, and our judging panel from Central Services has been fantastic."



Teamwork Champions:

This award is based on teamwork, coordination and encouragement during team tasks (raft building, laser tag, etc) and the judges were looking for a team that worked together positively. The winners were **East London Independent School**.



British Values Champions:

This trophy was awarded to the team who, in the judges' opinions, epitomises the British Values of Democracy (working together), The Rule of Law (following instructions), Individual Liberty (being responsible) and Mutual Respect and Tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs – **Create Service**.



Courage and Determination Champions:

Given to the team based on the scarier activities – such as the high ropes, aerial walkway, crate stack and more - **North West London Independent School** was given the award for taking on the pitch-black underground tunnels!

Healthy Eating Week

During the British Nutrition Foundation's 'Healthy Eating Week', pupils at ELIS learnt about the importance of hydration.

Pupils kept themselves hydrated during the week with homemade flavoured waters including lemon and lime, and mint and orange. They also tried a lot of exotic fruits.

Leona Talian, Pastoral Care Coordinator said: "We also held an assembly for pupils during the week, highlighting good and bad foods, and why it's important to have a good sleep routine and eat breakfast every morning."



Wellington class celebrates their win

Wellington class enjoyed a meal at a Mexican restaurant last term – their prize for winning the classroom competition. The class was awarded first place by a team of judges, having taught visitors about Mexican culture, prepared traditional dishes and displayed traditional outfits.



ELIS Bake Off

ELIS pupils took part in a 'Bake Off' competition to celebrate the 20th Anniversary, set up by Fitness Coach Ben Green.

Four tutor groups took part in the competition, each working together on their cakes and all following the 20th anniversary theme.

The cakes were displayed during the end-of-term family barbecue, where a panel of judges decided that Wellington class made the best cake – a lemon drizzle cake topped with colourful icing and the number 20 on top. The winners were awarded with certificates and medals during the end-of-term assembly.



Diving World Series

A small group of pupils attended this year's Diving World Series in May, hosted in the iconic London Aquatics Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Wellbeing Coach Ben Green accompanied the pupils, who "had an excellent time".



Officer Aadam

ELIS pupil Aadam wants to be a Police Officer when he leaves school, so was incredibly surprised and happy to be visited by PSO Joe Sexton in May.

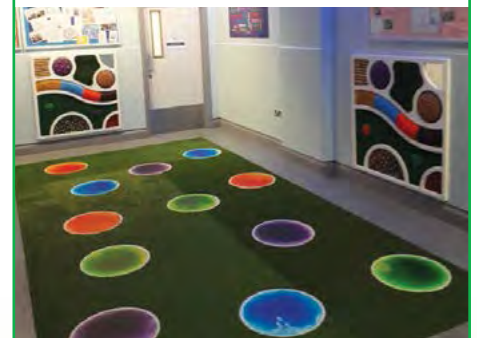
Officer Sexton spent time with Aadam, sharing his experiences and telling him about his career, letting him wear his safety vest and hat.



Aadam in uniform with Head Teacher, Ms Stedman.

A new sensory area

Pupils who suffer with sensory overload difficulties have benefitted from a new sensory floor, installed in the school earlier this term. The space provides a calming environment for those, mainly primary pupils, who need some time to relax away from their busy school environment.



Find out more: adele.stedman@tces.org.uk



North West London Independent School (NWLIS)

NWLIS's Got Talent

During the last week of term, NWLIS staff, pupils and their parents/carers gathered in the hall for 'NWLIS's Got Talent', an end-of-year talent showcase set up in celebration of TCES Group's 20th Anniversary.

Not only did pupils perform on the stage, but staff joined in too, treating the audience to a variety show including dance groups, solo and group singers, and musical performances. Auditions were held in advance of the show, which was judged on the day by staff and parents.

After the show ended, all participants and members of the audience joined each other in the outdoor area for a party, along with a barbecue organised, cooked and decorated by NWLIS parents and carers.



Goodbye Ms Medley

The end of term was well received by most at NWLIS, but was also met with the sad departure of Head Teacher Ms Katrina Medley. During the school's graduation ceremony, CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said: "Katrina is incredibly talented and I'm sure she will share our ethos and values with her new colleagues. We'll be sad to see her go." The school's new Head Teacher is Ms Camilla Azis, and we all wish her the best for the next academic year.



Healthy Eating Week

Pupils focused on the benefits of smoothies, including better hydration and a healthier diet, during Healthy Eating Week. As a result, smoothies are now a part of the weekly breakfast menu.

Celebrating Pride

Staff and pupils wore bright colours to school on 17 May in aid of the International Day Against Transphobia and Homophobia.

Tutor group Miro, led by Y9 pupil Leo, held an assembly for the whole school, explaining the background of Pride festivals, including why they take place, and why there is a need for it. Pastoral Care Coordinator Lateefah Elcock said: "We were really impressed by the independence skills they displayed during their planning process, and they delivered a brilliant assembly as a result."

What is Pride?

Pride is a celebration for diversity against prejudice and is also known as 'Gay Pride'

Pride is also a protest for rights and to change the law so that people can live their lives without judgement. Pride month is not just gay pride. It is to celebrate what makes people unique.

Home cooking

Y8 and Y9 pupils successfully passed their BTEC Home Cooking this term, managing to surpass Level 1 and qualify immediately at Level 2.

As part of their assessment, pupils prepared a large spread for the senior leadership team, including chicken kebabs, tzatziki, potato wedges, salads and desserts.



Cross-country run

NWLIS pupils tore across Wormwood Scrubs park this term as part of a 1-mile long cross-country run. Organised by PE Teacher Ms Regan, the run was a perfect way to blow off some steam at the end of term.



Find out more: camilla.azis@tces.org.uk



A Journey from War to Progress

On 9 July, staff, pupils and parents/carers gathered at Barking Broadway Theatre for Create Service's first ever live performance.

The show included a variety of poems, songs, drama and music with an over-arching theme of conflict during the second World War.

Dawn Jones-Wigington, Deputy Head Teacher said: "Pupils have been exploring conflict during war as part of their curriculum this year, which ultimately helps them understand the conflicts they go through personally, and how to deal with them. Pupils are often either too angry or withdrawn to even consider performing for an



audience – so to see them on stage truly shows the progress they've made."

Fermi, from the Barking Broadway Theatre said "I'm so proud of these kids and how well they've done in the first ever performance. I've been so impressed and can see that this has been the result of a great team effort."

One delighted mother said "The show was brilliant, I'm so proud. My daughter has been at Create for two years now and when she joined was very shy and quiet and could be quite emotional. That she's now confident enough to go on stage and perform is absolutely fantastic. She's like a new person!"

Although tickets were free, a collection for the Barking Royal British Legion raised around £100.

Josh at Comic Con

Joshua A has been incredibly busy this term, putting together his cosplay for London Comic-Con. He created a homage to 'Knuckle Joe', a character from popular Nintendo Series 'Kirby'. Assertive Outreach Teacher Rahel Berhane said: "Joshua worked tirelessly on his outfit for Comic-Con, and we're both very proud of the final result."



Demolition Experience

Jack, a post-16 student, has secured an apprenticeship with a local demolition company after completing his work experience.

Dawn Jones-Wigington, Deputy Head Teacher said: "I know the company well and thought Jack was a perfect match for them, and they understood his needs. After one week with them, they were so impressed that they have taken him on for longer as an apprentice. He took charge of health and safety, and it has been reported that he made some suggestions which the company then permanently implemented."

End of term

To celebrate the end of a busy year, Create pupils visited the Royal Observatory and were treated to a meal at Nandos with staff. During their final assembly, pupils received trophies, certificates and well-earned vouchers to enjoy over the summer.



Find out more: evangelia.theochari@tces.org.uk



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS)

Sad farewell

This term we said a sad farewell to Cheryl Rutter, who retired after 15 years with TCES Group. Cheryl joined us in 2004 as a teacher in our then East Mersea site and was then promoted to Deputy Head. Following this, Cheryl worked in both ELIS and EFS as Head Teacher. Thomas Keaney said "I'd like to thank Cheryl for her dedication, hard work and 'never give up'

attitude to the hundreds of pupils she has supported over the years. It has been a privilege for me as Schools' Proprietor to work with Cheryl, and I wish her well in her retirement."

Elainor Lloyd has now taken the Head of School position at our EFS Clacton site. Elainor has also been with TCES Group for 15 years and has run the Clacton site for the past few years.



Fayre on the environment

A group of EFS Witham pupils spent their end-of-term project focusing on single-use plastic, how they could reduce their daily usage, and how it could be recycled. While planning the school's summer fayre, they decided to use this learning experience to influence the event.

Teacher Tammy Wilde, said: "We decided to continue with our ethos and made a 'Splat the Alien', using materials which were otherwise destined for landfill. To get our 'reduce, re-use, recycle' message across, we used various pieces of one-use plastic to make a large alien."



During the fayre, pupils sold homemade cakes, hosted fairground games, and parents helped by helping with a barbecue. Sue O'Sullivan, EFS Witham's Assistant Head Teacher said: "We had an amazing day – lots of family members and locals came along. We raised around £210 for Mind, a mental health charity, which was a huge bonus!"



Find out more: elainor.lloyd@tces.org.uk

Transition Tree

A helpful 'Transition Tree' was created to help familiarise EFS Witham pupils with the new schools (ELIS and Clacton) they'll be moving to in September following the closure of the Witham site.



A goodbye to Y11

Goodbyes were shared between Y11 pupils and staff in July, with teachers wishing them well in the next part of their journey.

Elainor Lloyd, Head of School said: "Many of this years' cohort have been with us for a number of years, and staff have had the pleasure of watching each pupil develop into more confident, independent young adults."

As part of their last term with the school, pupils enjoyed a number of group activities, including visits to the London Aquarium and Thorpe Park. Staff were overwhelmed with gifts



from parents and pupils, as well as telephone calls and personal 'thank you' notes.

Elainor said: "Although there was much sadness to the day, it was a joy to see the fruits of our labour."

20th anniversary



In the spotlight: Thomas Keaney on 20 years of TCES Group

What attracted you to Social Work in the first place?

I come from a family of carers who throughout my teenage years ran an elderly care home. My mother and three out of four sisters were trained as nurses. The fourth became a care officer and eventually trained as a social worker.

When I first came to London I tried a few non-caring jobs but my heart wasn't in them so within a year I started to work in Auxiliary Nursing then moved on to Residential Care before working extensively as a Residential Social Worker with children and young people.



What prompted you to start TCES Group?

I was employed as a social worker for a care company with one very complex client and realised that the organisation

I worked for did not have any ethics or scruples. The owner was working with vulnerable young people in care simply as a means to get his flats let while earning additional money for allegedly supporting them. I knew that I couldn't go on watching my client being placed in sub-standard accommodation with limited support – at times it is easier to learn from how not to do something. I believed that it would be just as easy to do the job really well - and that if I did, then other Local Authorities would want the same for their clients.

So I started Transitional Care Ltd (now TCES Group) with just this one client. He was very complex and challenging, and I knew that if I wanted to build the business I had to be successful with him. At the time my own funds were short, so at night time I would boost my income by working as a mini-cab driver.

The company developed slowly and organically with a growing reputation for working with the most vulnerable

and complex children and young people – those who were often on the cusp of going into custody or secure units. These are the cases that have always held my interest and that I was always passionate about supporting.



What are the most significant changes you've witnessed over 20 years?

I think that one of the biggest changes would be the rights and role of parents. When EFS opened in 2004 we were reliably informed by experienced managers that we would be unable to get parents of EBD (now known as SEMH) pupils to attend school events. At the same time, parents had limited or no say at all in where their child would be sent to school. Luckily, by 2009 this situation had improved, with parents enjoying significantly more influence in where their children were educated. When we first started to build parent councils, we were amazed at how involved they wanted to be, for instance in helping to interview new staff and reading with children.

What have you learned along the way?

One thing I wish I'd always understood as clearly as I do now is how to get children and young people quickly into the seat of learning. How becoming stabilised and supported and into small group learning is so important for these pupils who will have spent an average of 18 months out of education before joining us. Our strong set of community values, which provides clarity for both staff



and pupils, is fundamental to this, as is our strong belief in the talents and skills of each individual to become young leaders with enormous potential. I've come to recognise the importance of changing both pupil and staff perception of the negative labels they arrive with and replacing them with more positive self-belief.

What would your younger self (of 20 years ago) think of TCES Group today?

In terms of our size today and whether I saw the organisation growing to this extent, I am driven by quality so knew that inevitably it would grow if I could retain this aspect. It has, of course, got harder the bigger TCES Group has become, but now I have so many wonderful people doing the practice and so it cannot fail on that

Photos accompanying this article show staff celebrating TCES Group's 10th anniversary.

basis. I am possibly guilty of never being 100% happy with what I have done or achieved with TCES Group, so it will be driven more in the years to come, but now we're finessing things - doing extra programmes beyond our remit. Now we are literally going the extra mile to support the most vulnerable, and like 20 years ago I don't know where our reach will stop. It is guaranteed to be exciting though.



Longest standing employee

These days 20 years is a long time to remain employed by the same company. So, it's not surprising that Thomas Keaney is the only person who has remained with TCES Group throughout its history.

However, Elsie Goring, who first joined the company in January 2004 is also still employed, albeit more recently on an ad hoc basis. Elsie worked as Finance Manager until 2013, when she unofficially retired, cutting down her days from full time to four days per week. Described by the Finance team as still being a highly valuable member, Elsie has some fond memories of the past 15 years with the organisation.

When she first joined Transitional Care Education Services, as it was then known, there were around 25 staff located across London. Until 2007 there were no school sites,

with staff mainly being Social Care workers and one-to-one Outreach Tutors, led by Thomas, whose vision was focused on moving into education.

Elsie fondly remembers 2009 as the year of the first staff Christmas party – now an established annual event in the TCES Group calendar, where staff from all sites get to meet together informally. But she says that pupil events are always a highlight and can be quite an eye-opener for anyone who doesn't work in the schools: "When we come together for pupil events you witness how hard the school staff work. They have far more patience than I do!"



E-Safety Corner

Wizards Unite: What you need to know

Harry Potter: Wizards Unite is one of the latest mobile-gaming AR (augmented reality) crazes, with gameplay incredibly similar to Pokémon Go.

Both games are aimed at all age groups, and are both fun and harmless, however, they involve the player walking to certain areas to catch or fight virtual creatures. This is of course a good thing,

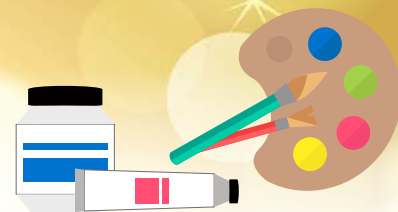
when the player is careful, as it encourages exercise – and both games show players their local landmarks and history.

Of course, we would recommend that children are accompanied by a known adult while playing, but please be aware that the game also includes micro-transactions, which aren't essential to the game. Perhaps download it and try it yourself – you



might enjoy it, and it could be an opportunity for you and your child to go outdoors and find new areas in your local community together.

Arts week



This year's Arts Week took place during late July, with staff and pupils across all TCES Group schools and services taking part in a series of arty activities.

Staff and pupils at **Create** had a busy week sculpting clay figures, creating modern art by pouring paint from a height onto a canvas, and building explosive volcanoes.

Art Teacher Santiago Alcon said: "We stirred oil through the paints and experimented in how we could move the colours around the canvas – using hairdryers, straws and more. It was an activity not constrained by artistic ability, so everyone was able to join in and have fun."



Pupils at **NWLIS** worked hard over the term to build huge Alice in Wonderland characters for an end-of-term tea party. Using branches from a willow tree, glue and paper tissue, pupils created two enormous sculptures of the well-known Cheshire Cat, and the Mad Hatter.

Parents/carers were invited to a special exhibition at **ELIS** to celebrate Arts Week. Set up in the school's hall, a mix of different pieces were on show, including pop art influenced by Andy Warhol, sketches, original screen prints, hand-crafted t-shirt designs and photography.

