

# TCES Group Bulletin

## Summer 2016



*Kayne from NWLIS enjoying Celebration Day*

**clinical  
corner**

**schools  
news**

**create  
service**



# CEO welcome



Welcome to the TCES Group Summer Bulletin, which contains news about some of the many activities and achievements from our last term in the academic year 2015/16.

Congratulations go to our graduates and to all those who have won awards this term. I never cease to be amazed and impressed by the talented young people we have the privilege to work with in our schools.

Stemming from our drive for continual improvement across the group, I have for some time harboured a vision of bringing in more elements of the Inclusion Manager role and socio-educational model to the schools. I was keen to fine tune the systems that are central to our philosophy of putting the child at the heart of everything we do and to test the validity of our 5 part curriculum and pupil charter.

Realising that this wasn't something I could achieve remotely and that if school staff were to continue their 100% focus on pupils I would need to be present in school. I've therefore spent the past term predominantly working with the team at our NWLIS site and am feeling extremely excited by the transformation I've witnessed in pupils and the strong feeling of 'family' that has developed among the NWLIS community.

Our strategy has been all about empowerment of staff and pupils, through engendering a group philosophy and community spirit, with work centred around British Values. These are at the foundation of everything we do in the TCES Group and underpin all that we believe in. The staff now incorporate the values to pupils in everything they do, stating that this focus has brought a greater understanding of our own mission and vision. At the same time, pupils have clarity on diversity and an intolerance of prejudice and bullying has developed within the school.

We now look forward to building on this success next year and welcome you, as always, to visit our sites to see first hand what our pupils are capable of achieving. We hope you enjoy reading about some of these accomplishments in the summer bulletin and wish you all a very relaxing, sunny summer.

**Thomas Keaney,**  
Chief Executive & Schools' Proprietor

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The TCES Group Bulletin is produced by the TCES Group. We run three independent day schools and one specialist service, 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  
(Ibex House, Stratford Marsh and Custom House)  
Essex Fresh Start (Harlow, Clacton and Witham)  
North West London Independent School (Acton)

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

#### To make a referral, please phone us on:

020 8543 7878 (choose option 3)

Email: [referrals@tces.org.uk](mailto:referrals@tces.org.uk) | [www.tces.org.uk](http://www.tces.org.uk) | @TCESgroup





### Football tournament 2016

June 16 welcomed the 2016 TCES Group football tournament, which took place at Harlow Football Stadium. All schools, plus the Create Service, participated in the two-hour match, which was followed by a prize giving ceremony.

Organiser Nicky Palmer, Higher Level Teaching Assistant at EFS said, "We enjoyed a brilliant day which consisted of mixed-age teams competing, ranging from Y5-11. It was without a doubt my favourite tournament so far because the sportsmanship alone on show was magnificent. There were some big tackles flying in and everyone gave 110%, but the handshakes afterwards and care for the opponent's welfare was absolutely incredible. The amount of respect players showed, not only to the staff referees but also to each other, proves what a credit the pupils are to their schools. All the pupils had put in extra work during PE lessons to try to win the tournament. "It really goes to show how much the work we do is appreciated and our pupils really do reap the rewards. So



Tournament winning ELIS team

it was a pleasure not only to have organised the tournament, but even just to be involved."

Collecting player of the tournament was Shawn Ayi, from NWLIS who demonstrated skill, team leadership and determination throughout the tournament. A special mention also goes to EFS pupil Brodie Simmons for his sportsmanship: he played incredibly well with a team of pupils that he'd never met before.

ELIS came first with the highest score, with EFS following close behind after a tense final.

Michael Scowen, Assertive Outreach Tutor, Create Service said: "The tournament for me was a fantastic success. The Create London team came together and showed a wonderful bond that's not normally seen in pupils that we work with. They supported one another throughout the day and showed a willingness to participate and a togetherness that was a delight to see."

Thank you to Nicky and all TCES Group pupils and staff who made the day so special.



### On-line e-safety guides

Don't forget to explore our monthly e-safety guides, downloadable now from the 'parents and carers' section of our website: <http://www.tces.org.uk/parents-carers/e-safety/>

TCES Group remains committed to providing information for parents and carers regarding the fast changing World Wide Web and the importance of keeping children safe in their on-line world, regardless of age and technical ability. Our current July e-safety newsletter features parent guides to YouNow and Musical.ly. YouNow is a social media platform that allows its users to broadcast live and interact in real time, while Musical.ly is another social media site which revolves around the music video – creating and sharing short videos with friends.

**TCES Group @TCESgroup Jul 20**  
Congrats to Myles who received a Jack Petchey Award at the Lyric Theatre last night, supported by his proud family.



**TCES Group @TCESgroup Jul 14**  
Come and join us this morning over at #Newham from 10.30-12pm for our Custom House site 2nd birthday celebration!



**TCES Group @TCESgroup Jul 12**  
We're all ready for Summer! Flip-flops designed & made by EFS Clacton Nurture group. Now we just need lots of sun.



**TCES Group @TCESgroup Jun 30**  
Sweet peas grown from seed by a Create Service pupil helped by his tutor. He's also growing peppers & dahlias.





# Spotlight

## A day in the life...

TCES Group employs more than 160 people, a diverse and talented staff team whose job roles are wide-ranging and fascinating. Each role makes a valuable contribution to the effectiveness of our, 'Good' and 'Outstanding' schools.

**One of the best aspects of her diverse role as PA to the Schools' Proprietor, says Hollie Keysell, is being able to work closely with both school and Central Services staff, frequently acting as a conduit between the different teams.**

Hollie is Thomas Keaney's PA. Hollie first joined the TCES Group in 2013 as PA to the then Executive Head, but within her first year changes in the organisation meant that she found herself working alongside Thomas Keaney as his PA. At first this was a typical supportive PA role, based in Central Services five days a week, with an occasional visit to school sites. How things have changed in three years!

The role has evolved almost beyond recognition, with Hollie's boundless energy and enthusiasm now focused as much on her own set of responsibilities as on those she carries out in a PA



capacity. Today she is predominantly school based, working closely with staff, pupils and individual School Leadership Teams (SLT).

She is still responsible for ensuring that school policies remain correct and up to date, coordinates the curriculum and assessment groups and works hard to share knowledge, experience and best practice across all schools and sites. It will come as no surprise that Hollie's role is central to TCES Group schools achieving such consistently 'Good' or 'Outstanding' judgements.

This year in particular Hollie has spent much more time in an outward facing capacity so school staff and pupils are getting used to having her around. "Working in school has given me a much more rounded understanding of how the key TCES Group functions - clinical, education, finance, facilities and business development - fit together and work for the schools," says Hollie. "In addition, witnessing first-hand how schools operate on a day to day basis, I've gained a new level of appreciation of what our school staff do and the challenges they face."

### Continuous improvement

Armed with this deeper knowledge Hollie's ability to help all schools focus on Quality Assurance is crucial to TCES Group's commitment to continuous improvement. "I see my role as being all about supporting the development and constant monitoring of robust

internal processes. I've always felt that as an organisation we're brilliant at what we do but less good at demonstrating it. This is what I'm aiming to improve."

A key member of the School Improvement Team (SIT), Hollie is supporting School Business Coordinators and Administrators in refining the numerous administration and academic systems and processes required to keep their schools running smoothly, ensuring that these are accessible to everyone in school.

Where she originally visited schools mainly to help administration teams prepare for the Ofsted inspection process, facilitate training or carry out quality assurance visits, she now plays a central role in helping to shape school improvement, through coordinating meetings such as Management Development Group (MDG), SIT and the Curriculum Group. She encourages staff to embed best practice on an ongoing basis. An example of this can be found in the series of working evidence folders (such as attendance folders) that are now part of each school's practice.

"I meet regularly with all relevant parties, providing an opportunity to openly discuss and improve policies, existing systems and new initiatives. By working closely across schools I'm able to find strengths in the processes at each school then help to roll them out across the group. It's all about finding out what works and sharing ideas and best practice, which I'm passionate about," Hollie explains.

Significant achievements in which Hollie has been instrumental include working alongside Cheryl Rutter (Head Teacher EFS) on the Curriculum Group's TCES Group Curriculum and Curriculum Guarantee, as well as the introduction of assessment tools for academic progress through the MDG.



# ...PA to our Schools' Proprietor

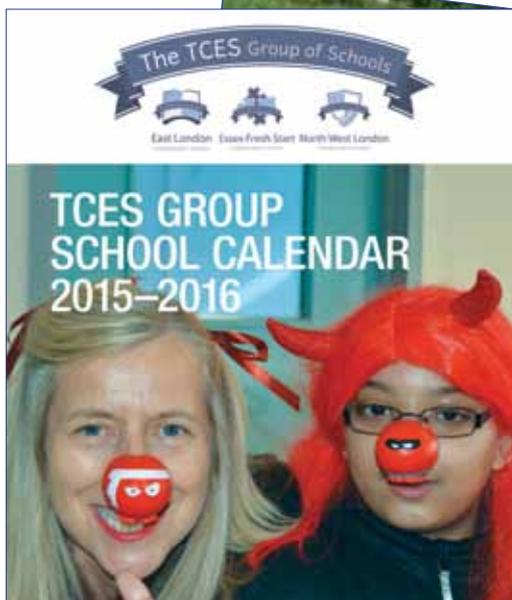
Hollie says, "It's good to be part of the decision making process and to help ensure that we constantly look to make improvements."

Hollie is also the driving force behind the launch of the TCES Group's calendar and the Systems, Processes and Information Manual, both designed to be helpful 'go to' tools. She says "The calendar gave us a vehicle to pull everything together in one place to help staff plan activities such as training, assemblies, processes and charity events. It was especially designed to provide clarity to school staff regarding what's needed from them and when, so coming up to the end of the first year of using it I do hope that they've found it useful."

On top of all this, organisation of two of TCES Group's major annual events - which see the whole group, either pupils and staff or just staff come together, an important opportunity to remind ourselves we are part of something bigger - the end of year Celebration Day (see pages 8 & 9) and the whole group Christmas party all come under Hollie's remit. Both events flow seamlessly and are just taken in her stride.

## Pupil involvement

Time spent in school has allowed Hollie to become more directly involved in pupil activities. She has organised assemblies, providing resources for all schools to use, such as the



presentation she created this term for discussions on British Values and the referendum. "The British Values really sum up what we're trying to teach pupils at our schools and it's been rewarding to see the impact this can have and the transformation in pupils it can create," she says.

Most significant though, has been her attendance at meetings with Student Councils across the schools. "Discussing the same topics with them and bringing together each council's input has provided one collective voice across the Group, which we haven't had previously."

From their perspective, pupils clearly find her approachable and have come

to recognise Hollie as the organiser of Celebration Day. They are comfortable discussing their likes and dislikes about the event with her, which is how she's discovered the importance of team T-shirt colour!

Hollie really enjoys this proximity to pupils. "They can be so funny and full of character. Like many of the school staff I'm genuinely amazed at the way some pupils function normally with the many life challenges they face. I feel privileged to be able to play my part in ensuring that school is a safe environment for them."

So what next? Hollie hopes to continue to spend more time in schools, building on the results she's already helped to achieve through her support of staff and pupils, working as part of their team, to make positive changes. She says that the main shift she's seen during her time in this role has been that any divide between schools and the business side (Central Services), which might exist, does not. Her involvement, acting as a link between all sites and staff, has undoubtedly played a huge part in this improvement.



# In the News...

## TCES Group demonstrate huge popularity at The Autism Show 2016

June 17-18 saw TCES Group exhibit for a third consecutive year at The Autism Show. Held at ExCel London, the show is the national event for autism and Asperger syndrome, uniting leading autism professionals, parents and MPs. The two-day event brought together a wealth of expertise, featuring several guest speakers in partnership with Research Autism.

TCES Group representatives, including CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney and Director of Operations Dorothy Elliott, plus several head teachers and lead experts in autism, worked tirelessly over the course of the two days. We listened to, discussed with and advised hundreds of visitors of all ages and walks of life, aided by our numerous sensory-themed giveaways, including TCES Group bendy men pens, reams of colourful TCES Group literature plus a vibrant film of pupils from our North West London Independent School.

The show featured the largest collection of autism-specific products and services in the UK and proved



incredibly popular: our stand was consistently busy, with many parents and teaching professionals speaking directly with our staff. Most importantly, the show raised public awareness of autism and Asperger syndrome, which currently two million people in the UK live and work with on a daily basis. The Autism Show attracts more than 10,000 parents, carers, professionals and individuals on the autism spectrum.



*TCES Group staff members Mandy Holland-Martin and Ishamar Blake talk in-depth with visitors, above.*

*Left - the TCES Group stand looking spick and span with brochures, photographs and our Mac PC ready to demonstrate our NWLIS video.*



## Recruitment challenge for Teaching Talent

We hear from colleagues in maintained settings that they are experiencing difficulties in attracting candidates of quality due to the UK's current teacher shortage. We asked Marion Gallo, our Recruitment Business Manager at Teaching Talent whether her team is facing the same challenges in recruiting teaching staff with the right level of skills and experience to work in TCES Group schools.

Marion explains, "There are actually more teachers in the profession than ever before, however pupil numbers are also far higher and are predicted to keep increasing due to the rise in the birth rate. However, there are problems attracting recruits to the profession caused by starting salaries for teaching graduates currently being lower than for many other graduate posts, teachers feeling more work pressure, education sector reforms and budget cuts.

"This makes our task even more of a challenge. That's why at Teaching Talent we're working hard to redefine our business so that we're able to offer the highest level of service. This will ensure that we are in the strongest position to attract and retain the best candidates who can provide the high quality of education that our TCES Group schools strive to offer our very special pupils."

[marion.gallo@teachingtalent.co.uk](mailto:marion.gallo@teachingtalent.co.uk)



# Promoting British Values



This term the vast interest in the EU referendum has been central to our teaching of the four British Values:

- Democracy
- Rule of law
- Individual liberty
- Mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs

These values are outlined in the TCES Group vision and mission statement and form the foundation of everything we do, and we believe that helping our pupils to develop such standards is crucial preparation for post-school work and adult life.

For this issue we're concentrating on democracy, and will cover the other values in subsequent bulletins, so watch this space!

## Democracy

Pupils in all schools have been taught about the advantages and disadvantages of democracy and how it works in Britain.

We've also looked at how democracy is important in school as well as outside. Decision-making in TCES Group



schools is encouraged through Student Councils, awards and suggestion schemes and we ensure that pupil voices are heard while at school.

This has helped pupils to see how the ability to express their views can influence decision-making through the democratic process.

## Pupil vote

An example of democracy within each school is the end of year pupil vote for most supportive staff member.

At ELIS Stratford Marsh Omaree Noble, the lower school Student Council treasurer, made a special box for ballot slips, helped by May Muang, art therapist. Sasha Barnard then helped him to make up a list of staff names, which was given out to every pupil. Told that they could make a first and second choice, each pupil then voted privately in 1:1 rooms.



## TCES Group EU Referendum

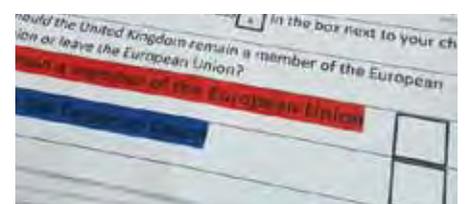
As politicians on both sides of the EU referendum debate fought a tireless and long campaign, our pupils cast their own votes in the TCES Group EU referendum. In Witham, EFS pupils echoed the general public's viewpoint with a divisive 51% victory for the Leave campaign. Meanwhile, at NWLIS an overwhelming majority of 84% elected to remain!

ELIS Ibex House held a whole school debate and vote. Although arguments for leave were the strongest, the team won mainly based on their delivery and presentation. Staff were also very impressed by the effort made to research and deliver arguments prepared



by Reece, Khaalid and Rohan for the Remain side.

In the two weeks prior to voting, pupils in all schools attended special assemblies and took part in discussions about the referendum, where they debated all aspects of the Remain and Leave campaigns, what the EU is and how it came to be. They also displayed information on noticeboards, where pupils could learn more about the EU and the arguments for and against.



# Summer celebrations

## Best pupil attendance winner

For either the pupil with consistent 100% attendance, or pupil who has made the biggest improvement

**ELIS:** Jalal Djerkallis

**NWLIS:** Joshua Stanly

**EFS:** Isaac French

**Create London:** Dont'e Hypocrate

**Create Essex:** Hannah Bowden

## Best pupil attendance runner up

**ELIS:** Beyzanur Ilhan

**NWLIS:** Myles McCandless

**EFS:** Kiran Simpson

**Create London:** Oliver Cannon

**Create Essex:** Ethan Beales



## Celebration day

Towards the end of term all TCES Group schools and services came together at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre for our annual end of school year Celebration Day - this year spread across two days.

Pupils and staff enjoyed a range of sporting activities

including raft building, climbing, zip wire, 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.

## Best pupil progress winner

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

**ELIS:** Rohan Guhli

**NWLIS:** Tariq Mahmoud

**EFS:** Daniel Noble

**Create London:** Angel Wakeham

**Create Essex:** Caelan Ricketts

## Best pupil progress runner up

**ELIS:** Anthony Miller

**NWLIS:** Aaron Amartey

**EFS:** Keil Paxton

**Create London:** William Rodrigues

**Create Essex:** Jay Harvey

## Most supportive staff member winner

As voted for by the pupils

**Ibex House:** Aasim Ahmed

**Stratford Marsh:** Senie Emmanuel

**Custom House:** Ruqaiyah Hussain

**NWLIS SLCN:** Stephen Asante

**NWLIS:** Paul Morris

**EFS Witham:** Karen Juby

**EFS Clacton:** Janine Pearce

**EFS Harlow:** Debbie Mitchell

**Create London:** Shanne Woodhouse

**Create Essex:** Michelle Booth

## Celebration Day Champions winner

Team that epitomises the 7 values of Celebration Day: respect, courage, determination, excellence, friendship, inspiration and equality

**London:** NWLIS

**Essex:** EFS Witham

## Celebration Day Raft Building Champions winner

Based on teamwork during the construction and sailing of the rafts

**London:** ELIS Custom House

**Essex:** EFS Clacton

## Raft Building runner up

**London:**

**ELIS Stratford Marsh**

**Essex:** EFS Witham

## Celebration Day Raft Building Champions winner

Based on team encouragement supporting each other

**London:** ELIS Custom House

**Essex:** EFS Harlow





A new award for 2016 was the 'British Values Champions', a team award emanating from the key focus on British Values that all pupils have been studying. Each team was judged in four areas: democracy – working together and listening to each other; rule of law – following instructions and keeping each other safe; individual liberty – being responsible for your own actions; and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs – showing respect and manners towards all new people you meet. Congratulations to all winners!



**Most improved pupil winner**

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

**ELIS:** Omaree Noble

**NWLIS:** Shawn Ayi

**EFS:** Kyle Ashwood

**Create London:** Rustamus Soroka

**Create Essex:** Jamie Smith

**Most improved pupil runner up**

**ELIS:** Louis Gittings

**NWLIS:** Yassin Imlahi

**EFS:** Archie Storrar

**Create London:** Jonathan Mobio

**Create Essex:** Shaun Page

**Su English Award winner**

For outstanding achievement in Speaking and Listening

**ELIS:** Richard Fitzgerald

**NWLIS:** Laquain Beckford

**EFS:** Hudson Cowdry

**Create London:** Joshua Reynolds

**Create Essex:** Frankie Longhurst

**Yvette Barlow Award winner**

For the best progress in ICT

**ELIS:** Lorenz Griffiths

**NWLIS:** Michael Lawson

**EFS:** Jack Varcoe

**Create London:** Nathan Petrie

**Create Essex:** Harry-Jay Smith

**Janet Dean Award winner**

For outstanding effort or improvement in numeracy and literacy

**ELIS:** Ricky Hope

**NWLIS:** Hussein Mohamed

**EFS:** Daniel Noble

**Create London:** Fehzan Mahmood

**Create Essex:** Jay Harvey

**Celebration Day British Values Champions winner**

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

**London:** NWLIS

**Essex:** Create Essex

**Celebration Day Team Player Award winner**

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

**London:** Rickai Pryce Ross

**Essex:** Kyle Ashwood

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## Virtual tour

New on the NWLIS page of the TCES Group website is a virtual tour of the school. This can be used to navigate around the school, visit classrooms, the hall and the outside play area and see some of the great work on display: <http://www.tces.org.uk/wp-content/vtour/tour.html>

## Creative activity

A group of NWLIS pupils have worked collaboratively to create amazing films, which they conceived, produced and recorded themselves. Under the direction of WAC Arts, pupils learned new skills and implemented them independently to facilitate their wonderful creative vision.

Between them they took on all roles of a film crew: producer; director; cameraman (director of photography); sound recorder; first assistant director; lighting technician (gaffer); writer and editor.

WAC Arts is a charity providing impactful performing arts and media programmes to young people.



## Graduation

Graduation Day at NWLIS - 8 July - was one of the real highlights of the year.

Ejay Wright, Rickai Pryce-Ross, Shawn Ayi, Kiaeem Finikin, Farren Parker, Ki'Yarn Francis-Williams and Mickell Barnett were all invited to don gowns and mortar-boards to celebrate their many achievements at NWLIS.

The atmosphere throughout the ceremony was described as wonderful, with families, pupils (both past and present) and staff bursting with pride for the graduates. A particularly moving element was when individual pupils shared spontaneous messages of good will with the departing Y11 pupils.

Summing up the graduates' feelings Kiaeem said, "... When I came to this school I was a little crazy kid and since I set my foot into this school I have become calm. I seriously thank every teacher for changing me and if I had not come here, I would not be the person I



Rickai Pryce-Ross



Shawn Ayi

am today. Thank you all for your help and support."

Among those taking to the microphone were parents who were full of praise and appreciation for what the school has achieved with their sons over the past few years, transforming them into the incredible young men they are now.

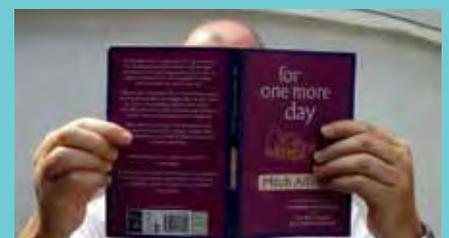
## D.E.A.R.

NWLIS has rolled out a number of new initiatives this term, one of them being 'Drop Everything and Read' (D.E.A.R.). Adopted across the entire school community, once a day, every day, D.E.A.R. provides uninterrupted reading time for teachers, TAs, office staff and other support staff, who drop everything to share a book with a pupil.

Kevin Parker, Deputy Head Teacher explains, "We were determined to focus our attention, energy and resources to raise literacy and

numeracy skills across all groups of learners. So far D.E.A.R. is proving very popular with everyone at NWLIS."

To promote the initiative, staff and board members have submitted photographs for a 'Secret Reader' display in the newly stocked library. Kevin says, "We hope that while pupils attempt to identify the readers they might also be keen to find out more about their chosen books. Pupils will shortly be invited to share their book choices with staff as well, which we all look forward to."



Can you guess who is hiding behind their books?

Find out more: [nicole.teakle@tces.org.uk](mailto:nicole.teakle@tces.org.uk)



## Travel training

Ibex House pupils took part in a travel training competition in July, having already prepared and planned in groups.

Their task was to work out the best routes to three major London destinations: the London Eye, the Tower of London and Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square. Each group was asked to produce selfies to prove they had visited the destinations and to aim to return to school in the fastest time.

They were judged on time, teamwork and most interesting photographs.

The overall winners were Rohan, Josh and Ricky who finished with a top time of 1 hour 48 minutes.

The runner up was Jason's team with the second best time of 1 hour 55 minutes.

At first Razaq thought he didn't want to join in, but nevertheless he participated in the competition.



Although he didn't win, he made an enormous effort to finish. He enjoyed it thoroughly and admitted that he had never been to the Tower of London or any other of the sites before. Korrel also enjoyed it and captured his day out visually which he was able to showcase in his PowerPoint presentation.

Well done to all Ibex House pupils who took part in their travel teamwork so enthusiastically!

## Happy Birthday, Custom House!

Custom House turned two years old on 6 June and marked the occasion with 'Arts Week' birthday celebrations throughout the week starting 11 July, culminating in an Open Day on 14 July.

Pupils and staff reflected on the exciting developmental journey of the school over the past 24 months and participated in a range of creative arts activities to mark the event, including drama, music, art and design, film production, podcasting and cooking. The Open



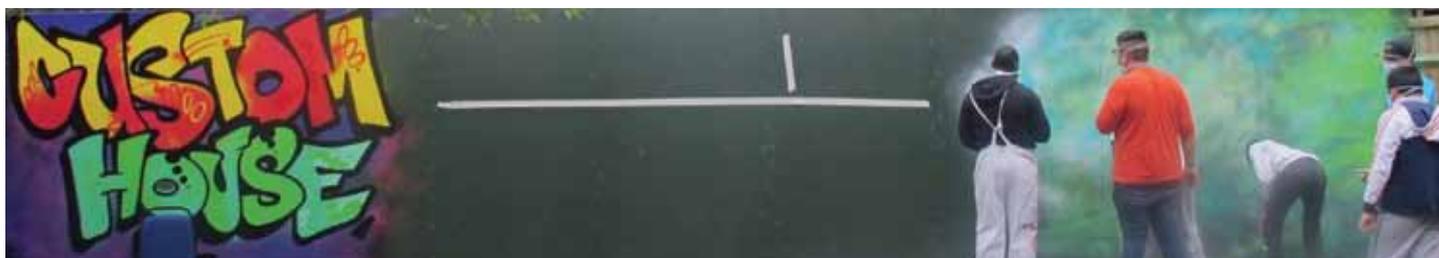
Day provided an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate these activities through a range of performances and presentations, much to the delight of parents, friends, family and visitors alike.

## Dragon's Den

Y9 pupils at Stratford Marsh recently took part in their very own 'Dragon's Den' activity, where they had to conceive and deliver a presentation about a 'start-up' business.



Over a three week period, pupils researched and worked on their individual projects: Josh devised a specialist football coaching school for primary-aged children; Rubel created a Manchester United fan club just for teenagers and Eve formed her own nail art business, offering a mobile service to clients at home or within the workplace. Pupils worked on PowerPoint and oral presentations and demonstrations to a Panel of TCES Group's Director of Operations and School Improvement Partner - so no pressure! Eve won after demonstrating a good understanding of her product and its appeal to customers, the importance of customer service and of how to safely manage the chemicals used. Well done to all who took part and especially to Eve!



## Priti Patel MP 'At Home' in EFS Witham

On Friday 29 April, EFS opened its doors again to the public, inviting local residents and businesses to a peek behind the scenes in Witham's newest school. Along with locals, Rt Hon Priti Patel MP was welcomed in for afternoon tea and a tour to learn about the day-to-day work of the school, viewing examples of pupil's work and meeting staff and pupils.

Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter said, "We are delighted that Priti Patel was able to join us - she showed such an interest in what we're trying to achieve here.

Our 'At Home' event was a great way for our neighbours to meet our pupils and teachers, seeing for themselves the fantastic work our pupils are capable of. We want the people of Witham to know that we're very happy for anyone to visit us and find that people are always keen to understand what we do."

Priti Patel said, "The work that EFS Witham is doing for its pupils is of huge importance, making the school an integral part of the local community. It was a privilege to see the support that the staff provide and the opportunities they are helping to create for their pupils' future."



## Great achievement

Anna Davidson, a Teaching Assistant from EFS Clacton successfully completed the London Marathon in April, raising just over £3,000 for the British Heart Foundation. Anna says that it was an amazing day and she'd recommend the marathon to anyone!

Commenting on how proud the EFS staff team was Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter said, "Well done Anna. A great achievement. You literally are one in a million."

## 90th birthday celebrations

There were lots of activities across EFS to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. Pupils in Y6 at EFS Clacton sent home-made birthday cards to the Queen.

EFS also held a competition to design coins and stamps for the Queen's birthday.

EFS Harlow's day was kicked off by a discussion about what makes us British and what type of things are typically British.

Keeping to the theme, the English breakfast included English toasted muffins and lunch was fish and chips. Afternoon activities included baking scones for a typically British tea of scones, cream and jam.

In Art pupils made their own stamp designs based on a silhouette of their own heads, inspired by British stamps with the Queen's head.



Picture by Kane at Witham



Stamp designed by Reece at Witham

## Stamps for horses

EFS Harlow staff and pupils have started to collect used stamps, which they sent to Bransby Horses in Lincolnshire, a special horse welfare charity and sanctuary for horses and ponies.

Elaine Renker, Administrator at EFS Harlow, who owns three horses says, "We have lots of horses in the area and our pupils love giving them healthy treats such as apples and carrots."

If anyone else wishes to donate their used stamps more information can be found at: <http://www.bransbyhorses.co.uk/>



Find out more: [cheryl.rutter@tces.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.rutter@tces.org.uk)

## Brilliant baker

The Create Essex end of term achievement lunch was completely organised by a team of six pupils, led by Caelan. Overseen by staff, the team took care of planning, shopping, cooking, invites, preparation and decorations for the buffet lunch, attended by parents and social workers. Visitors were also treated to a show of work produced by Create Essex pupils over the past term.

Caelan is well qualified to take on this role, having completed his Level 2 Jamie Oliver Home Cooking Skills course to a very high standard this year. He has also submitted a highly impressive folder of work and evidence.

Colette Ferns, Head of Create Essex, said, "I was really impressed by the event, and in particular how well the group worked as a team. The baking was also exceptional; Caelan and the team produced some wonderful cakes. Seeing such amazing creative potential in our pupils has inspired me to think about developing a catering course for our pupils." Watch out Jamie Oliver!



## Role reversal

Amy (not her real name) joined Create Essex in January and what a difference two terms in Y12 have made for her! On arrival Amy was already an accomplished horse rider, but was struggling in mainstream education, with communication and relationship issues commonly associated with ASC conditions.

Tutor Angie Pitts has worked closely with Amy, building on her interest in horses and encouraging her to use her skills to help others.

There was a surprise in store for Angie when Amy put her learning to the test. Asked what she'd like as a reward for being an outstanding pupil, Amy said that she'd like to help Angie overcome her deep fear of horse riding.

Amy took total control of the session, encouraging Angie to mount the horse, then teaching her the basics of walking and trotting.

Angie said, "Prior to my lesson I was terrified. But Amy was caring and supportive and made me feel very safe in her hands. We're all so proud of her achievements and feel sure that she's going to move on to become a very successful horsewoman."

After the lesson Amy said, "I feel that Angie did very well and I am proud that she faced her fear of horses and hopefully won't be scared of them any more."

Amy is now keen to further develop her interest in horse care and, based on her academic development, has secured a place to study Level 1 horse care in Equine Therapy. However, the college is keen to move her up to Level 2 as quickly as possible as she already has excellent knowledge in this area.



Angie Pitts in the saddle



## Harlow to join Witham

Over the summer holidays our Harlow school will be packed up and moved to Witham, ready for pupils to make a 'fresh start' at Witham in September.

Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter says, "Although the move has been brought about by the landlord's redevelopment of the Harlow site, we see this as a positive step as the pupils from Harlow will now be able to enjoy the wonderful facilities at

our Witham school. The 'state of the art' premises has substantial curriculum resources including: purpose built science labs; a purpose built food technology room; a large indoor multipurpose sports hall/assembly room; and a wonderful outside space."

All staff, pupils, parents, carers and other relevant parties have already been informed.



New playground equipment is proving a huge success with both pupils and staff at EFS Witham.

Find out more: [colette.fern@tces.org.uk](mailto:colette.fern@tces.org.uk)

# Create Service London

## Pitstop training

A number of Create Service pupils are currently attending the Pitstop Training Centre, an accredited City & Guilds centre providing motor vehicle training and assessment for school age children.

Head Teacher Sylvia Kerambrum said, "A real bonus for us is that the tutor at Pitstop, Steve Dalton, really understands the challenges and barriers to learning that some of our pupils face."

Among the group, Nathan attends every Wednesday and is studying for a

City & Guilds vocational qualification in vehicle maintenance. To date, he has successfully completed three of ten modules.

Nathan's interest in this subject stems from having worked with his Dad who collects and maintains motor vehicles, an activity in which he involves both Nathan and his older brother. Nathan said, "I'm really enjoying the course as I find working with my hands and doing practical things easy. Once I leave school I hope to go on to college to take further studies in vehicle maintenance."

## Friday meetings

During their regular Friday morning meetings at the Romford Hub the Student Council has been learning about current events, as well as how to manage their behaviour in difficult situations and how to adhere to the four fundamental values of Britishness. Among activities they have:

- solved a 15 piece puzzle of the Britishness poster.
- read a case study on 'respect'. They asked smart questions and used letters from the word respect to form new words, personalising their wordlists.

## Master chef



Jonathan has been busy cooking for Romford Hub staff and pupils, assisted by his tutor Tomas. His roast chicken lunch went down a treat and his Mum, who joined everyone for lunch, really loved it! Next he chose to cook breaded chicken breast served with a Greek salad, saying, "I felt chicken was a sure hit with everybody, so I decided to try chicken again, but with a twist. I searched through the net till I found a recipe that

pleased and challenged me."

Jonathan wrote a shopping list before shopping for ingredients with Tomas. Back at the hub he put his apron on, washed his hands then began cooking. While the chicken, which "looked so good and smelled very nice and spicy" baked, Jonathan prepared the salad.

Another pupil enjoyed Jonathan's chicken so much that he ate three pieces!

## Barking Therapeutic Hub

As the finishing touches are being made to our new Barking Hub we can see our dream turning into reality. Pupils have begun to visit, some just to have a look, while others have been getting involved in the preparations. We're delighted that the seven pupils at the hub so far have given it an overwhelming thumbs up and have been really helpful in getting it up and running.

A Y10 pupil who is working towards a career in construction has assembled a wall cabinet for our creative therapists' equipment and the office swivel chairs.

A Y7 pupil potted up the large yucca that is now gracing our relaxing veranda. We hope that the plant's burgeoning energy will help to inspire the music of another Y10 pupil who has begun taking guitar lessons on the veranda's social seating area.

On the academic side, a Y11 pupil has already made the most of the focused, yet calm environment of the upper floor to work towards his all-important qualifications. In between sessions he has also been enjoying the spacious and comfortable kitchen. Here, the already much loved kitchen table has become the heart of the building, where pupils and staff share music, video, photos, drawings and words of interest.

Head Teacher Sylvia Kerambrum says, "We're really looking forward to pupils being here regularly and will be encouraging them to make the place their own through creative and nurturing activities and projects."

The Barking Therapeutic Hub will be officially opened next term.



**Find out more:** [sylvia.kerambrum@tces.org.uk](mailto:sylvia.kerambrum@tces.org.uk)



# TCES Group



**East London**  
Independent School

Ibex House, Stratford Marsh  
and Custom House  
Tel: 020 8519 7332



**Essex Fresh Start**  
Independent School

Harlow, Clacton and Witham  
Tel: 01376 780088



**North West London**  
Independent School

Acton  
Tel: 020 8749 5403



**Create Service**  
Personalised Therapeutic Education

London  
Tel: 01708 393150  
Essex  
Tel: 01376 780088

TCES Group schools provide LA funded day-school education for pupils aged 7-18 years whose Social, Emotional or Mental Health (SEMH) needs or Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) has made it difficult for them to achieve success in a mainstream school. Pupils will often have additional undiagnosed learning needs, Speech, Language and Communication needs (SLCN) or sensory needs, which create a complex set of barriers to learning that must be addressed before the pupil can settle into education.

Pupils attending our schools often need highly personalised learning programmes and can remain for Post 16 programmes of study, specialising in developing independence, preparation for adult life and life after school (including study at college or preparation for the world of work).

Parallel to our day-schools, TCES Group's Create Service offers therapeutic education, delivered through a case-coordination model, to pupils who present (or are at) significant risk to themselves or others. This risk means pupils cannot be educated in a school setting. It may be that this is a temporary situation or the pupil may be returning from a residential therapeutic, out of county placement.

As a Social Enterprise our business is primarily driven by a social purpose of putting pupils and staff before profit and our operating surpluses are principally re-invested towards our company mission and objectives.



As TCES Group's in-house recruitment agency, Teaching Talent recruits for leadership roles, teachers and support staff for our schools.

With a combined industry knowledge in education for pupils with SEND, recruitment and retention, Teaching Talent offers a comprehensive, fresh and personal approach to the recruitment process.

To work at a TCES Group school you need a wide range of teaching and curriculum experience and may have worked with pupils with SEND in the past. You will be part of a professional, creative, free-thinking team around the child, delivering our 5 part curriculum to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in society, between the ages of 7-18 years.

**Contact:** [info@teachingtalent.co.uk](mailto:info@teachingtalent.co.uk)

**Tel:** 020 8518 3779 | [www.teachingtalent.co.uk](http://www.teachingtalent.co.uk)

To make a referral, please phone us on: 020 8543 7878 (choose option 3)

Email: [referrals@tces.org.uk](mailto:referrals@tces.org.uk) | [www.tces.org.uk](http://www.tces.org.uk)

