

TCES Group Bulletin

Winter 2019/20



The Autumn term was full of celebrations! We celebrated our 20th birthday in style, launched a Goldsmiths UoL research report into our practices and received a second Ofsted Outstanding for NWLIS.



East London
Independent School



North West London
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School



Create Service
Personalised Therapeutic Education

CEO welcome



Welcome to our Winter bulletin. The Autumn term really felt like one of the best so far as we had so many things to celebrate. This included: the culmination of our year of celebratory events in honour of our 20th year; the launch of a research report by Goldsmiths University that evaluated the interventions used across the Group and found that our policy of never giving up and never permanently excluding transforms the lives of our pupils; a second 'Outstanding' Ofsted report in a row for NWLIS; and, on a personal level, being awarded the 2019 Send Leader of the Year by NASEN. However, the proudest success of the last term for me is the fact that we no longer 'Fixed Term Exclude' pupils under any circumstances, building on our Zero Permanent Exclusions.

During our 20th birthday week each school and service celebrated by hosting an open day to showcase their chosen school specialism – these were introduced in our last bulletin. I was fortunate enough to attend each one and it was such a pleasure to see our brilliantly talented children and young people display our wide range of specialisms. The talent and confidence shown by pupils during these events is largely down to the incredibly hard work put in by our staff team.

At the end of the week we hosted an event at the House of Commons to both celebrate our birthday with many of our key stakeholders and to launch the Goldsmiths research report.

Once again, I was immensely proud of the pupils who attended and told the stories of their transformation while at TCES Group to an audience of around 100. That evening I was able to reward staff across the Group at a special party. I'd really like to thank everyone involved for making our 20th birthday really memorable and exceptional in every way.

Moving on to 2020, a major focus for the TCES Group is on a staff wellbeing programme that we are currently rolling out via staff councils on each site. This will complete the trilogy that includes the student and parent councils that are already

working so well. The parent council will be complemented by the introduction of our parent App, Weduc. Also, making the most of the latest technology, we're in the process of building a new, modern website that will be launched around Easter.

We will further develop our Young Leaders programmes including Leadership week, increase our numbers of Alumni Mentors and progress our 'Reach Out' programme that is designed to transfer our expertise in inclusion to other schools.

I'd like to take the opportunity to wish our readers a very happy and healthy 2020.

**Thomas Keaney, CEO
and Schools' Proprietor**

**NASEN 2019 SEND
Leader of the Year**

@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





NWLIS retains 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating

Congratulations to staff, parents/carers and pupils at NWLIS who, following an Ofsted inspection under the new framework in November, received a resounding 'OUTSTANDING' across all of the four Ofsted standards.

This is the second time in a row that NWLIS has been awarded 'Outstanding' and we are very proud of this achievement. At the time of the inspection we were one of the first four percent of special schools to be inspected under the new framework and amongst only one third of all schools (mainstream and special) who have retained this highest possible rating.

The final report contains some glowing feedback on the school, including that "pupils excel at this school, both academically and socially", "the school's 'community values', such as hard work and high expectations, are routinely upheld", and that "pupils respond well to the 'never give up' attitude they receive from caring staff."

School Improvement Partner Kevin Parker said: "I'm delighted that the inspectors recognised that "the school offers an exceptionally broad and exciting curriculum", and I would like to congratulate the staff on their efforts in adapting this curriculum to meet the individual needs of pupils."

The full report can be found at: www.tces.org.uk.



Transforming pupils' lives educationally, emotionally and socially

An independent research study, published in November by Goldsmiths University to coincide with our 20th birthday, has found that TCES Group's policy of never permanently excluding transforms the life chances of our pupils.

The research included in-depth interviews and focus groups with pupils who had left a TCES Group school or service within the last five years.

Goldsmiths Researchers Caroline Frizell and David Woodger stated that *'an emphasis on attachment, along with a diversified and differentiated curriculum, with group process at its core, allowed these young people to feel understood, to feel welcomed and to learn the social and academic skills to engage with all aspects of life more positively'*. They concluded that our inclusive philosophy of never giving up provides *'authentic, therapeutic education at its finest'*, which *'is effective in transforming the lives of pupils educationally, emotionally and socially'*.

Thomas Keane, CEO and Schools' Proprietor says: "By talking to former

TCES Group students – voices that far too often get lost in the exclusion conversation – researchers got to the heart of what made the difference. This was a combination of being listened to and understood by well-trained professionals, being encouraged to play an active role in their school community and support to develop their sense of identity around their strengths and their future. Under-pinning all of this was the knowledge that we would never, ever give up on them."

TCES Group's Patron Dame Esther Rantzen says: "We are extremely grateful to the children and young people who took part in this research and about whom you will read in the report. Their achievements are conclusive evidence that TCES Group's approach works and works well, and I believe that its policy of never permanently excluding, along with other interventions could and should be used as a template for the educational sector as a whole."

The full report and news item can be found at: www.tces.org.uk.

@TCESgroup Dec 11

Here's the team at Central Services, showing a bit of #sparkle on Get Your #sparkleon day for @childline and @NSPCC.



@TCESgroup Oct 11

For #WorldMentalHealthDay our staff and pupils at East London Independent School wore yellow to highlight #MentalHealth and held a group process session, where pupils discussed mental health and the effects it can have on us #MentalHealthAwareness



@TCESgroupCEO

#WorldTeachersDay2019 Every single one of us remember an excellent teacher who supported and inspired us. To all our teachers @TCESgroup we value what you do for our SEMH/ASC pupils & they do too.

@YouthandPolicy Nov 9

Who knew there were schools committed to 'no exclusions ever'?! Great read about the work of @TCESgroup and the research into their impact by @d_woodger and @frizarm @GoldsmithsUoL. Things can be done differently and inclusively for young people who struggle with school!

@TCESgroup Sep 26

Good luck and congratulations to Ethan – one of our EFS pupils who has achieved his wish and returned to mainstream #school this week, having been with us for 4 years.

In the news

Celebrating our 20th Birthday

The week of our 20th birthday in November was incredibly special, with all our schools and services hosting Open Days to showcase their 2019/20 specialisms and celebrate the milestone within their own communities. Find out more about these Open Days on our schools and service's dedicated double-page spreads later on in this issue.

On the Friday, staff and pupils met with stakeholders, suppliers and other long-standing contacts at the House of

Commons, where speeches were made in honour of 20 years of progress.

Hosted by motivational speaker Andrew Muhammad, speakers including the researchers behind our Goldsmiths report, our patron Dame Esther Rantzen DBE and CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney took to the stage to reflect and share anecdotes about the organisation.

However, the stars of the show were our very own pupils, both past and

present – with Maison (ELIS) sharing a pupil-made rap, Liam (EFS) sharing personal insights into his time at the school, and more. To view a video of the event, visit our website.

Andrew Muhammad said: "I wish that these young leaders go on to lead in society, whether that means coming back and working with us, or being leaders in their own right, I want them to be leaders – whatever they choose – because they are born to be great."



TCES Group in the news

◆ *Autism Eye*:

CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney was chosen by national publication *Autism Eye* as its 'Star of the Month' in November. *Autism Eye* highlighted our 'no permanent exclusions, ever' policy, saying: "what makes Thomas Keaney our Star of the Month is that, as the leader, he is responsible for creating the policies and structures that support such an approach."

"One of the group's policies, for instance, is never to permanently exclude pupils – and, as he said, the group aims in the future never to exclude at all."

Read the full story here: www.bit.ly/Autism-Eye

◆ *Children & Young People Now*:

Under the heading 'Help to challenge exclusions', *Children & Young People Now (CYPN)* ran an article on 26 November entitled 'Legal and education experts are developing ways to challenge exclusions and promote inclusive practices.' The article was based on the

call by law reform group Justice for a radical overhaul of exclusions, and stated that in 2017/18, 45% of all exclusions were of children with SEND. It ended by talking about the research by Goldsmiths into TCES Group practices, and highlighted our six successful factors in providing inclusive education.

www.bit.ly/TCES-CYPN

◆ *Schools Week*:

Schools Week, edition 197 issued on 6 December, included an article by Thomas Keaney, entitled 'Schools won't be inclusive until their efforts also apply to staff', in which Thomas argues that to make education truly inclusive schools need to employ neuro-diverse staff.

www.bit.ly/TCES-SchoolsWeek

◆ *NASEN*:

We were delighted that, in October Thomas Keaney was awarded SEND Leader of the Year 2019 by NASEN (the National Association for Special Educational Needs).

www.bit.ly/TCES-Nasen



Anti-Bullying week

To raise awareness of Anti-Bullying Week last term, TCES Group held its annual poster competition across all schools and services. Taking place in November, 2019's national campaign theme was 'Change starts with us'. In line with this pupils produced some fantastic results.

The winning posters were professionally printed for display in all TCES Group schools and services, as well as Central Services, with the pupils receiving their own copies.

Winners also received prize money, which was sent to their Student Council for use around the school.

- 1st place: **Pypa, EFS**
- 2nd place: **William, Create**
- 3rd place: **Kal-EI, ELIS**
- 4th place: **Ushari, NWLIS**



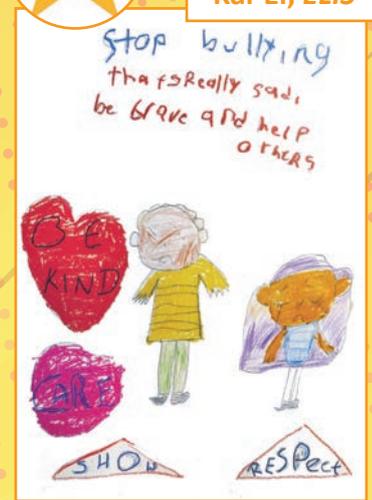
Pypa, EFS



William, Create



Kal-EI, ELIS



Brad, EFS



Jonathan, ELIS



Ushari, NWLIS

Matti, EFS



Parent page

Spill the Tea

A member of the NWLIS Parent Council has created a termly newsletter, 'Spill the Tea':

Dear parents/guardians and carers,
I hope you all have had a restful summer break. We are now into our first Autumn term and I hope the majority of our children are rearing to get back into the schooling routine and academic year, but for some children like my son, getting back into routine and detaching himself from me after such a long summer can cause some teething and settling issues.

Anxiety is a huge part of my son's Autism and this can be displayed through vocal outbursts and coping mechanisms e.g. rapid blinking or extreme rocking. If this sounds all too familiar, when changes occur please feel comforted that the school is always prepared and more than experienced to help support and guide us as parents. A quick visit or email to your child's tutor or pastoral support team is enough to highlight your concerns to them and strategies and advice are always guaranteed and readily available.

I find that when I get feedback and communication from staff, they are always patient and tactful. Nothing is too trivial, NWLIS is dedicated towards our children's happiness and well-being.

A problem shared is a problem halved.

Kind regards,

Tray

Feel free to join the conversation!
Send any comments or questions to Tray via admin.nwlis@tces.org.uk.

Recycling awareness

At the request of an ELIS Parent Council member, staff and pupils wore green on the final day of National Recycling Week to help raise awareness.

After an assembly on the importance

of recycling, pupils were tasked with making recycling bins to keep around the school for unwanted paper and card.

The school has since recruited a pupil to take on a position of leadership and who will collect each classroom's recycling at the end of each week.



A Parent Council Christmas

Create Service's Parent Council has been reflecting on a busy Christmas period, having been involved in the community's events and activities as much as possible.

Parent Council members, assisted by staff, judged a pupils' Christmas card competition, with the winning entries receiving a prize and fridge-magnet of their card's design.

In an effort to help with the service's Christmas party arrangements, council members put together hampers for visitors with the help of Joshua, a Y13 pupil.

Winifred Alexander, Create Service's Parent Lead, said: "We hope our Parent Council will continue to grow this year, as parents are expressing an interest in our community and participating in our council-led events. One parent shared with us that they were extremely happy with the way their child has progressed at the service, and now talks about their ideas for the future."

The council plans to have coffee mornings in the community for Outreach parents, giving them the chance to contribute to parent voice and participate in events throughout the year.

For more information, contact: winifred.alexander@tces.org.uk.



Parent coffee mornings at ELIS

The Parent Council at ELIS has established a 'Friday coffee morning' for parents, cab drivers and other pupil escorts. The social meeting runs weekly from 8.45-9.30am and is aimed at

creating positive relationships between parents, staff and drivers.

Council members have created a WhatsApp group and have since been out for lunch together.



Young Leaders

Pupil takes on Fire Brigade course

ELIS pupil Leon has undertaken the London Fire Brigade's week-long LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) programme, learning how to use operational equipment and taking part in team building activities.

Using activities to develop confidence in young people, the course helps them understand fire safety and their role in the community, and ensures

they are safe at home in the event of a fire.

The course links with the TCES Group Leadership specialism for 2019/20, as pupils at ELIS are expected to embrace leadership, confidence, teamwork, good work ethics, respect and conduct themselves to the highest standards.



Leadership coaching at NWLIS

To kick off Leadership Week NWLIS invited Floyd Steadman to its Monday Assembly. Floyd was a Looked after Child and later became the first black man to captain an English rugby team - the famous Saracens; before becoming a teacher and latterly Head Teacher. He talked about his life story, which pupils were both fascinated and inquisitive, asking lots of appropriate questions. NWLIS staff and pupils hope that he will come

back soon to give a rugby lesson.

Motivational speaker Andrew Muhammad also visited NWLIS during Leadership Week to deliver an engaging and exciting presentation to pupils.

A quiz had pupils so animated they were out of their seats with excitement. They then worked alongside each other during the final stages of a 40-50 minute presentation.



Showing leadership at EFS

Young leaders at EFS have been showing leadership skills by going out of their way to help school management.

Pupil Matti helped to renew the school's display boards, while Liam helped fix door hinges on Head of School Elaine Lloyd's office door. Sam, the Student Council's Recycling

Ambassador, has offered to take charge of the school's recycling after council meetings.

Elainor Lloyd said: "These young leaders have gone above what is expected of them in order to better the environment around them – both within our school building and in general."



A visit to the Houses of Parliament

ELIS pupils, accompanied by Alumni Mentor Maison, went on an educational visit to the Houses of Parliament during Leadership Week. Pupils learnt its history, how the building operates, and how and when MPs meet.

Pastoral Care Coordinator Leona Talian said: "As one of our 2019/20 specialisms is Leadership, we explained to our pupils the importance of democracy and leadership within their Student Council, and how MPs and the Prime Minister demonstrate leadership within their communities and the country as a whole."



Open Day

During the 20th birthday week ELIS opened its doors to staff, parents and members of the local authority for a fantastic Open Day.

Pupils Kal-El and Leroy paid a surprise visit to Central Services the week before to invite Thomas Keaney and Central Services staff to their Open Day. The CEO was also interviewed by the boys, who asked him some personal questions in relation to the last 20 years of TCES Group.



Maya played piano while Alumni Mentor Maison greeted guests at the door, and after a welcome 'assembly', visitors were told about the school's 'PE, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing' specialism by PE Teacher Eddie Szostak.

Anna French-Walker, Pastoral Care Coordinator, then took guests on a

journey through 20 years of TCES Group. Maison, the school's current sole Alumni Mentor, introduced a brilliant rap video he had put together alongside the entire ELIS pupil community.

Guests then split into groups and toured the classrooms, where pupils and staff had set up special presentations in relation to the specialism. Branson class gave a presentation on the Olympics, and Obama did one specifically on Usain Bolt. One group even managed to coerce CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney into practising some yoga techniques.

In another effort to show off what pupils had learnt under the specialism so far, a group of parents, local authority members and Thomas Keaney were invited to an exclusive meal, held in the Post-16 classroom. Led by Head Chef Tafari, guests were treated to a healthy three-course meal, consisting of sweet potato soup, stuffed chicken



on a bed of risotto and pavlova.

At the end of the 20th Anniversary celebrations, ELIS was nominated by a panel of judges as the school that has best embraced its specialism. The school has been awarded £1,000 to put towards its specialism. Well done to everyone at ELIS!



Anti-Bullying Week

The ELIS Parent and Student Councils joined forces for Anti-Bullying Week in November, putting on an assembly for the whole school on bullying. Dorie, a member of the Parent Council, gave pupils advice on being kind and lending a hand to others.

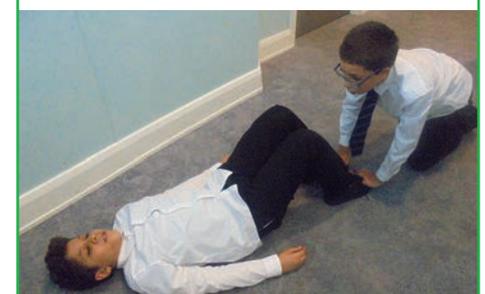


The school also raised awareness of Anti-Bullying by taking part in 'Odd Socks Day', a national awareness day that encourages people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality.



National Fitness Day

In celebration of National Fitness Day, staff and pupils took part in a range of activities to raise awareness of fitness. In line with the school's specialism, 'PE, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing', participants were challenged to the 'bleep test' and a range of teamwork challenges.



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

Understanding the environment

Pupils at ELIS have been getting close to nature and helping to sustain their local environment, making birdboxes to hang around the school's outdoor areas.

Thanks to visiting company Api:Cultural, who work with businesses, schools and community

groups to teach them more about environmental health, pupils were able to better understand the local habitat and the environment around them.

In the run up to Christmas, the company visited again to help show pupils how to make Christmas wreaths and candle holders.



Discover Centre

Pupils from Mandela class visited the Discover Centre in December, an interactive sensory and story-making experience in Stratford.

Staff led them on a journey through the Centre, where they were assisted in using their imaginations and props to create vivid stories. The Centre, which is ASC-friendly, uses sound effects and sensory items to assist visitors throughout their experience.

Errie Smart, Teaching Assistant, said: "The students displayed great listening skills and behaved in a good manner. They took a huge interest in the sensory equipment in each of the rooms and didn't want to leave once their time was up!"



Macmillan

Pupils made and sold cakes as part of the national 'Macmillan Coffee Morning' event. Parents visited the school, to join in the fun with some donating their own home-baking efforts.

One tutor group led a whole-school assembly, presenting a brief history of the charity and its cause. In total, the school raised around £50.



Parent feedback

ELIS was sent some wonderful feedback from a parent after they recently visited the school:

"I would like to say thank you to you and your staff for facilitating William's visit to ELIS last Friday. He was most impressed with the individualised learning environment and commented on how happy Kal was. He was also quite impressed with Kal's progress based on discussions and evidence of his work.

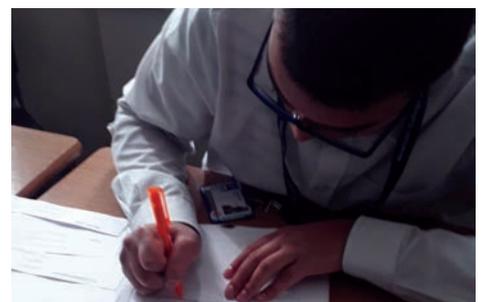
"Thanks for your time and facilitation. ELIS is the place for Kal. He feels safe, he fits in well and he has formed positive relationships. I am a proud ELIS parent."

Positive feedback post-TCES Group

A former ELIS pupil has been making strides since joining Newham College. Mahfuz left ELIS in 2019 to study Health & Social Care and has since shown that he truly embodies the TCES Group community values.

The college reports that "when doing group work, he asks his peers questions and takes on their suggestions – for example, he made a display board with his group, and is currently in the process of creating a presentation.

"Mahfuz is very well spoken and well mannered. He is working on achieving a distinction in his 'being organised' assignment next month."



Open Day

Guests at NWLIS were shown around by members of the Student Council and welcomed into the assembly hall for presentations on their 2019/20 specialism, 'Creative Arts'.

Pupils' artwork was on display throughout the school and in the assembly hall, with a giant floor-to-ceiling graffiti mural taking the spotlight, which read 'NWLIS' and '20th Anniversary'. Art Teacher Paul Morris spent some time explaining the specialism to visitors, sharing his

plans for the next academic year and beyond.

Creative Arts can take many forms, so pupils put together a performance of singing, rapping and dancing, and one teacher shared some original poems with the audience, written in her class.

Both the Parent and Student Councils banded together to plan and host a celebration 'Mad Hatter's Tea Party', once the presentation was over. Among giant 'Alice in Wonderland'



sculptures built by the pupils, cakes were on offer along with tea and biscuits, and cards were on sale to raise money for the Catherine Bullen Foundation charity.



Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh

Staff and pupils visited the Saatchi Gallery in London last term, to visit the popular Tutankhamun exhibition.

The exhibition explores treasures found in Tutankhamun's tomb, tells stories of his life as a King and the discovery of his tomb, through a display of more than 150 authentic objects.

Pupils visited the exhibition after studying phonics during literacy, and wanted to learn more about the origins of phonetics – originating from hieroglyphics. Other visiting



pupils linked the experience into their learnings from Black History Month, and one pupil used the trip to take photos towards their A-Level Art qualification.

Children in Need

Staff and pupils took part in fundraising for Children in Need by putting on a food tasting challenge. Students paid £1 each to participate and were given different foods to taste, including avocado, lemon juice and bananas. Y8 pupil Owen won the challenge, with the school raising £25 for the national charity.



A visit to the Clink

After a discussion on youth and crime in a Group Process session, pupils took an interest in how criminals were punished for their crimes throughout history. As a result, a group of them

visited the Clink, a notorious prison in Central London dating back to 1144, giving them the opportunity to see just how barbaric punishments used to be.



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

Christmas Lunch

Parents, pupils and staff had a Christmas lunch together before the holiday break. Parent Council members helped to decorate the school's main hall and tables

alongside pupils. After the lunch, the NWLIS 'Christmas Choir' – a mix of pupils and staff – performed for everyone, followed by some solo pieces.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

The NWLIS community hosted a charity coffee morning for parents and local neighbours, with homemade cakes and treats. In total, with help from the Parent Council, the school raised over £400.



Black History Month

To observe Black History Month last term, pupils in each class did research projects on various tribes from around the world. With some parents in attendance, pupils presented their findings – including some tribal dances – in a whole school assembly, with prizes and awards being given out at the end.



A Magical Escape

Picasso class are currently reading through the Harry Potter series, so last term visited The School of Magic escape room in Central London. Pupils were given 60 minutes to escape from the room using their abilities to find clues and solve puzzles. After 31 minutes, they got out.



Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS)



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School

Open Day

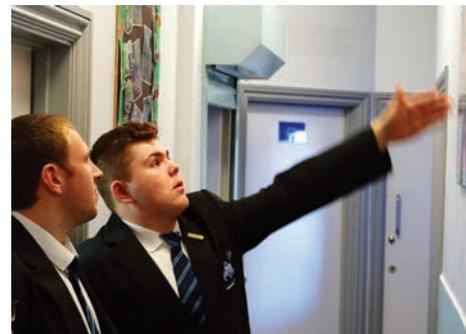
EFS gave visitors a practical experience in an effort to display their 2019/20 specialism, 'Learning Outside the Classroom'. The guests were met by pupils at two locations where EFS pupils take vocational work experience and gain qualifications.

They were first sent to 'Wellies On', a 40-acre 'social farm' just outside Colchester. EFS pupils are referred here as part of the school's specialism and take part in daily farm work, including animal care and maintenance – with the chance to earn accreditations. Scott, an EFS pupil, was on hand to walk guests

around the farm and share what he's learnt so far.

Next, visitors were sent to 'Rallysport Engineering', where EFS pupils between 14 and 16 years old can take up vocational work experience and gain qualifications in mechanics and engineering. There, guests met with pupils Acer and Sam, plus the Managing Director, who took them on a tour of the facilities and shared of a few of the pupils' latest projects.

Upon arrival at EFS, guests were taken on a tour by Student Council members Tyn and Liam, who stopped by each



classroom for a series of presentations that pupils had put together. After the presentations, a party was held in honour of TCES Group's 20th birthday. Tyn had worked especially hard on the event, baking cakes and leading the decoration of the school for the birthday party.



A record-breaking fundraiser

Staff and pupils at EFS held a record-breaking Macmillan Coffee Morning in October, surpassing all of their previous years' fundraising by totalling a whopping £515.

Two events were key to the grand total – with staff and pupils hosting a Coffee Morning and putting together their own 'Pier to Pier' challenge.

Lots of hard work went into the Coffee Morning, including freshly baked cakes, a raffle, 'guess how many sweets in the jar' and 'guess the weight of the cake' games and more. An organic stall of vegetables and herbs was also set up, which proved to be very popular with guests.

Pupils decided to hold their 7-mile 'Pier to Pier' challenge on National Fitness Day, in aid of Macmillan Cancer Research. The walk started on Walton Pier, ending on Clacton-on-Sea Pier, a short walk from the school building. Almost all of EFS's pupils participated in

the challenge, with most taking an average of two hours to complete it.

Elainor Lloyd, Head of School said: "Thankfully the weather was bright and sunny for our 7-mile challenge – well done to all those who took part. In addition, a large number of family members took the time to travel to the school to help support us with our Coffee Morning, and on behalf of the entire school team, we thank you for this generous support!"



Beach School

As part of their 2019/20 curriculum specialism, 'Learning Outside the Classroom', nurture pupils (lower



school) at EFS are taking part in 'Beach School' lessons.

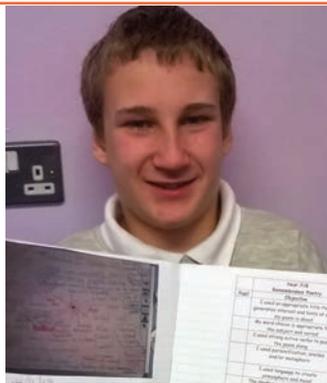
Elainor Lloyd, Head of School explains: "We are fortunate enough in Clacton to have the seaside almost on our doorstep, where staff and pupils can make the most out of their experiential learning!"

Pupils have spent their time studying local marine life, including the discovery of some shark pods (egg sacs), which they have taken back to school to further study as part of their project. Others have used their more creative sides to produce jewellery out of pebbles.



Remembrance poem

In memory of those who lost their lives in the Second World War, EFS pupil Caden spent his English lessons putting together a lovely poem. It is a reflection of his thoughts and feelings in respect of our fallen heroes:



*Rivers of blood
Sirens of fear
Soldiers cry in the distance
Pitch black dirt on their faces
As the uncaged creatures devoured their enemies
To remember the soldiers who gave their lives
And this is why we celebrate Remembrance Day.*

Children in Need

The EFS community banded together in November to raise funds for BBC Children in Need, raising £70 for the cause.

Parents/carers, staff and members of the Local Authority visited the school to take part in a number of challenges, including 'guess the staff member' (from their childhood photo), a continuous static-bike ride and 'guess the cake weight'.

This amazing cake was baked by Tyn, a Student Council member.



Clacton then and now

One striking presentation during the school's Open Day was a photo project, comparing old photos of Clacton to how the area looks now. Pupils in Hawk Class, led by teacher Sue Angus, visited the local library to find photos of places of interest, historical buildings and streets. They then walked through the town to take new photos of the areas they had found, to show how they had changed

over time. One such photo was of the school itself, with one member of staff

discovering it in the background of an old photo of their own.



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

Open Day

Create Service was the first of TCES Group's schools and services to host its Open Day in honour of the 20th birthday. They highlighted their 2019/20 specialism, 'Performing Arts', by putting on an incredible 'Academy Award'-style performance.

The formal invite sent in advance of the show asked guests to dress in black tie for the "red carpet affair". A team of staff and pupils interviewed their esteemed guests upon arrival, who were then greeted with drinks, nibbles and cakes – all put together by the service as a team.

After an introduction from Head of Service Evangelia Theochari, the lights were dimmed and the performance

began. Guests were treated to an array of Oscar style awards acts, including a sing-a-long and dance to 'Old Town Road' (one of the biggest hits of the summer), an original interpretive dance and some singing accompanied with a piano. Some students performed excerpts from the service's theatre performance the previous term, covered in our last bulletin.

The performance was followed by an Oscar style awards ceremony for the pupils, with awards such as 'Most Inquisitive and Observant', 'Most Qualifications at Create' and 'Best Big Brother to all the Young People'. After some words of congratulations from Thomas Keaney, guests enjoyed some food and a dance before departing.



World Mental Health Day

Pupils at Create Service took part in a Group Process session for World Mental Health Day, led by Assertive Outreach Tutor Daniel Mascia. Taking turns to stand in front of their peers, pupils were asked to hold and stack a series of boxes while asking difficult maths questions.

Daniel said: "The boxes and books were a metaphor for any worries and negative thoughts that might get them down and overwhelm them. I got them to talk about their latest maths lesson to prove how difficult it was to concentrate on an easy task when there is so much going on elsewhere. One student asked to lean on a staff member so he didn't fall – we picked up on that later and highlighted that in times of physical problems and physical needs, we should ask for help."



Pupils shared their own thoughts on mental health, discussing the importance of checking on your classmates and friends, and being more open and welcoming toward people with mental health issues.

Black History Month

Create Service pupils have been learning about Black History through the medium of art.



Art Teacher Santiago Alcon first taught pupils about West African 'Adinkra' symbols and prints, using the work of influential African artists such as Yinka Shonibare as examples. They were then tasked with creating a mask using these symbols and designs.

Pupils Josh and Rumana collaborated on the winning mask.



Rap workshop with Christian Foley

Create Service pupils were in for a treat when viral sensation and 'Rapping Teacher' Christian Foley visited to host a Rap Workshop.

Christian, who has appeared on This Morning and Radio 1 and worked

with Premiere League clubs and organisations across the world, goes into mainstream schools, PRUs and alternative provisions (APs) to deliver spoken word, English and Rap workshops.

After a whole school assembly, pupils got into groups to discuss ideas, write poetry, and then after a lunch break spent some time recording the results.

Some finished tracks will be produced and sent to students by the end of term.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Staff and pupils collaborated on a whole-school Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. A mix of cakes – some donated by parents, and others baked by the pupils – were on offer after being judged in a 'Bake Off' competition, in which a lemon drizzle baked by pupil Kyler was picked as the winner.

Art Teacher Santiago Alcon helped pupils prepare for the day of fundraising by letting them design their own T-Shirts. Mr Alcon said: "The pupils were so enthusiastic when helping to sell the cakes, and were excellent hosts, encouraging visitors to buy cakes and asking them if they needed a drink."



A Create Christmas Carol

No strangers to a good performance after having put on 'A Journey from War to Progress' at the Barking Broadway Theatre during the summer, Create Service pupils delivered a rendition of the all-time classic 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens last term.

Pupils put together an original version of the play with assistance from staff – from the script to the outfits and props, including custom backdrops, and sound effects.

Visiting parents and carers were given baskets full of Christmas goodies, made up by pupils.



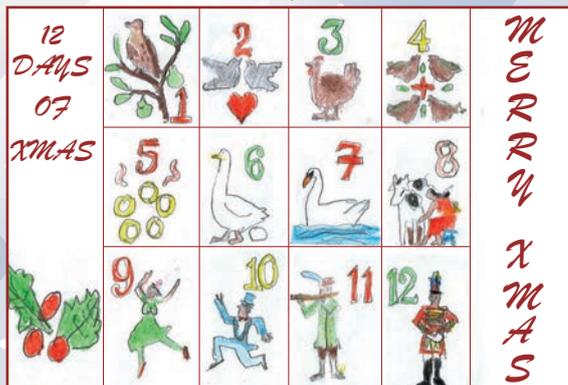
Winning Christmas cards

Our annual Christmas card competition ran in December, with some fantastic designs being sent in from all of our schools and services. A panel of judges took some time to pick the winners, who are listed below. These designs were turned into professionally-produced Christmas cards, made available for all TCES Group staff. The winners were also given a pack of their design to send to friends and family.

George, ELIS



Levi, EFS



Luca, NWLIS



Christine, Create



Staff members of the year

Congratulations to those who were nominated by their peers as 'Staff member of the year 2019' at their site, school or service:

ELIS

Luigi Esposito

EFS

Sadie Bland

NWLIS

Lateefah Elcock

Create

Annabel Owusu-Ansah

Central Services

Claire Connett

