

# TCES Group Bulletin

Winter 2❄️17



*President Carmona, Fifth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, visited North West London Independent School in December and was welcomed by pupils, staff, neighbours and parents.*

**schools  
news**

**clinical  
corner**

**create  
service**



East London  
Independent School



North West London  
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start  
Independent School



Create Service  
Personalised Therapeutic Education



# CEO welcome



In September we introduced a new Quality Assurance framework, which has seen every school and service benefit from regular, structured School Improvement Team visits that are helping to assure our high standards across the group.

We have also carried out scheduled Governors' visits this term, and have been thrilled with the way schools and services are showing us the very best of what they do. In addition, we have

carried out internal 'Mocksted' inspections in every school and service (apart from ELIS, which is due in January). These inspections support our drive for continuous improvement and ensure that ownership for meeting the Independent School Standards Regulations now sits with all members of staff at all levels. They also mean that the board of Governors can effectively deploy the School Improvement Team to appropriately support our schools and services as we start the Spring Term.

Individually our schools and sites are all doing well. The first event of the term was the EFS graduation, where proud staff, parents, carers and Local Authority representatives gathered to congratulate the Y11 graduates on their remarkable achievements.

NWLIS in particular has had an incredible year, culminating in a visit from the President of Trinidad and Tobago, who was so impressed by his visit that he's

indicated an interest in forging a valuable relationship with the TCES Group in future.

We are all very excited by the redevelopment of the Stratford Marsh school building, which upon completion will become the home of the entire ELIS population. The gradual integration of the pupils from both sites, who are all currently being educated at Custom House, is already well underway and proving successful.

Last, but certainly not least, a key focus for this term has been on the development of a Therapeutic, Education, Assessment and Monitoring programme for our Create Service, which is to be introduced to Local Authorities during the first half of the Spring Term.

Wishing all our readers a wonderful festive season and break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to school in the New Year.

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

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

#### **Our schools are:**

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

#### **Our Create Services are:**

Create Service London (Romford and Barking)  
Create Service Essex (Witham, Clacton and  
Chelmsford (admin centre))

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



# President visits NWLIS



It's been a great year for NWLIS. As if being rated 'Outstanding' by Ofsted in February and receiving an IQM Award in April wasn't enough, a Presidential visit on Thursday 7 December provided the icing on the cake, rating as one of the 2017 highlights for pupils, staff and the local community. On a flying visit through London, returning from speaking at a United Nations Environmental Conference in Nairobi the day before, His Excellency Justice Anthony Carmona, fifth President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago visited NWLIS shortly

after arriving at Heathrow, marking his first visit to a British school since taking on his role as President.

Co-Head Teachers Kevin Parker and Katrina Medley said, "His Excellency spoke with wisdom from a lifetime of leadership and vision and our pupils responded with active listening and questions that were challenging, intelligent and maturely crafted."

CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney reflected, "We are honoured by the visit of President Carmona and thrilled at the thoughts and gifts he shared with our pupils and staff."



*Hussein, President of the Student Council welcomes President Carmona to NWLIS*

## Student Council President commended for helping to save a life

NWLIS Y11 pupil Hussein, who was tasked with welcoming President Carmona and introducing him to Student Council members, has received praise from a Kensington Aldridge Academy teacher after displaying 'excellent judgement' when attending to a member of public with a suspected head injury in September.

The unexpected turn of events required Hussein to act quickly and decisively when he came across the injured man, who was lying on the pavement with a head wound. Hussein wasted no time in dialling 999 to call an ambulance and gave directions to the scene.

Daniel Prasch, who teaches at Kensington Aldridge Academy, was walking past as the incident unfolded and observed that Hussein "showed excellent judgement, was very helpful and confident in talking to everyone, including the injured man, and was a huge help to him personally." Hussein astutely removed his shirt to use as a bandage to help stop the bleeding, remaining cool and calm throughout, while Mr Prasch sourced a first aid kit, observing: "Hussein possibly helped to save the man's life."

The man was subsequently transferred to the nearby A&E department by ambulance.

Mr Prasch couldn't speak highly enough of Hussein and telephoned NWLIS personally to commend his actions. Kevin Parker said, "At NWLIS we teach pupils the importance of being involved in their community and support them to develop as leaders. However, we cannot control how they act in their own time. With no one to guide Hussein at the scene, this young

man has displayed a gigantic spirit in attending to an injured man, who was overlooked by most adults that day. I feel his actions completely endorse what we are striving for in our holistic educational approach, because it was entirely his choice to act in this way. The future looks bright if Hussein represents the next generation of adults in our community." Equally, Hussein's parents are "very proud of our son for what he did."

Hussein said of his actions: "Sometimes in life, if there is something you want to do, you should go for it. When I saw the man on the floor, my body just moved on its own; I didn't think twice. I want to remind all young people that there are no limits to what they can do."

One of the UK's leading Black History and Culture Specialists, Andrew Muhammad, celebrated Hussein's efforts during a school assembly, remarking, "It is an honour and joy to use Hussein as a true living example of leadership in action." Mr Muhammad has been instrumental in supporting NWLIS, establishing leadership curriculum lessons and delivering inspirational assemblies which have transformed pupils' leadership skills.



*Hussein pictured with Co-Head Teacher Ms Medley*

# In the news

## School uniform update

Recent feedback from our Student Councils indicated that many pupils want to wear a smarter, more streamlined version of the school uniform. We listened, and have now revised the school uniform to include a smart blazer and tie option. Please see our illustrations and guide for the full uniform list, which is also available to view on the TCES Group website under the Parents & Carers tab.

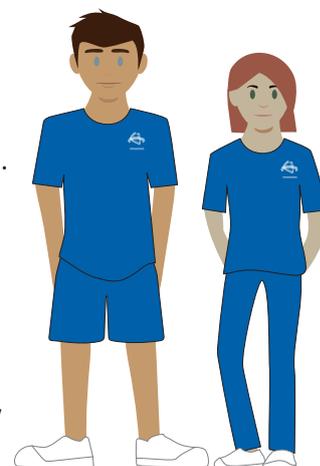
The standard school uniform for boys and girls is comprised of:

- **Black blazer with school badge** – school will provide
- **Grey sweatshirt with school badge** – school will provide
- **White polo shirt with school badge** – school will provide
- **Black trousers (no jeans/combat trousers/leggings)**
- **Plain black school shoes (no trainers)**
- **Black socks**
- **Plain bag**
- \* *School tie (optional) – school will provide*
- **Blue PE T-shirt with school badge** – school will provide
- **Blue or black PE shorts (no logos or stripes)**
- **Blue or black jogging bottoms (no logos or stripes)**
- **Non-marking trainers** – please note these may get dirty or damaged due to the nature of activities, so we advise no expensive trainers to be worn for PE.



Physical Education is a compulsory part of the school timetable. All students are expected to take part in the lessons, in correct sports attire. Exceptions will only be made if the school is informed by a parent/carer that their child is unable to participate.

**Please note there should be no logos (other than the school logo) or slogans on any item of clothing or footwear.**



## NWLIS collects IQM Award

In March this year, North West London Independent School was awarded the prestigious IQM award, validating the school's inclusive status. The Inclusion Quality Mark is a standard for assessing schools against a nationally recognised framework on inclusion. In September CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keane plus NWLIS Co-Head Teachers Kevin Parker and Katrina Medley accompanied pupils Jahshaan and Diaz to the Annual IQM Awards Ceremony at the Institute of Directors in London to collect their award.



## Free school photos for parents

Pupils and staff from TCES Group Schools and Create Service have, for the first time ever, been photographed by the School Photographic Company. The company photographed each pupil and staff member individually and in class groups throughout November, with each pupil receiving a complimentary framed photograph

that was sent home in time for Christmas. Parents/carers also have the opportunity to purchase extra sets of photographs of their child or the child's class via the School Photographic Company's website: <https://orders.schoolphotographs.co.uk/tspc/Home>, using the unique log-in details that were supplied with complimentary pupil photographs.

The School Photographic Company has over 100 years' experience as specialist school photographers. Employing some of the most experienced staff in the industry, it delivers unrivalled quality results and is recognised as an innovator in digital photography with one of the most advanced in-house production facilities in the world.

# Black History Month

## Celebrating Black History Month at TCES Group

Black History Month occurs every October in the UK and across the TCES Group, recognising and celebrating the achievements of black men and women from the past and present day.

Throughout our schools and services pupils participated in various activities, led by our poetry competition and for the first time staff and parents were invited to enter alongside pupils.

The competition aimed to explore attitudes black people have encountered over the years and more recently. We received a

fantastic response, with many contributions in a variety of forms – hand-written, typed, illustrated and spoken word. Due to the poetic talents of entrants choosing winners was extremely difficult! The overall winners are:

**Pupil** **Shane**, *Create Essex*  
**Kerrie**, *Create London*

**Staff** **Ms. Medley**, *NWLIS*  
**ANON**, *Create Essex*

**Parent** **ANON**, *Essex*



### Pupil winner

#### Discrimination

Different bus different seats,  
Why are blacks not allowed on the bus  
then whites are!

Different doors, different doors.  
Why have black people got different  
doors!

Only allowed to drive Bristol buses if  
white!

Protesting no one goes  
How do I get citizenship  
What does it matter what colour your  
skin is

**Black** white, **Asian**, **pink**, **blue** **orange!**  
WHY! WHY! WHY!

*By Shane, age 15*

### Staff winner

#### Why?

*He said: "Why do we have black history month?"  
I'm black and I barely know,  
But I asked Google and got an idea.  
So now I can say I know!*

*She said: "Why is there no white history month?"  
Now this I know I know,  
I care enough to find out more  
But for her black history is a chore.*

*If we were celebrating St Patrick  
I would certainly wear green.  
But when it is black history  
Why do you have to be so mean?  
Ask me not why we have black history but ask  
yourself why we have black history month.  
And whilst it's always the black person's job in the  
office to organise it,  
there will continue to be a reason for black history  
month!*

**ANON**

In addition to the competition, KS3's nurture class at Essex Fresh Start School in Clacton visited the London Sugar and Slavery exhibition at Dockland's Museum of London. The exhibition proved beneficial and engaging for all pupils, with an interactive element as well as other stimulating displays, and a special guide which was created for SEMH pupils to help them to get the most out of the visit. The pupils really enjoyed travelling to London and during the visit wrote how they felt about slavery on cards that were then displayed on the wall at the exhibition.

Other schools' Black History Month activities were extensive, with a wide variety of classes and activities taught across the Group and Create Service: Create London pupils participated in Tanzanian and Zanzibari art classes while Create Essex pupils enjoyed a steel pan performance and workshop.





# Spotlight

# In the spotlight...

**TCES Group employs more than 250 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.**

## ...Designated School Improvement Team (SIT)

Since its inception in 2014, the School Improvement Team (SIT) has evolved to become a multi-faceted team who monitor, advise and guide the ongoing development of TCES Group schools and Create Service.

We now have two dedicated members of the School Improvement Team who are based at Central Services: Hollie Riley and Lesley Fish. Both Hollie and Lesley have moved from previous roles as PA to the Schools'

Proprietor and Executive Assistant to Thomas Keaney/Office Manager respectively to these new positions that are unique to the TCES Group. We believe that these roles are already bringing about a life-changing culture to the Group by ensuring that all voices are heard and essential Quality Assurance standards are met.

### Hollie Riley – Stakeholder Engagement and Group QA Manager

Hi, I'm Hollie, and I joined TCES Group in summer 2013. I work closely with Thomas in his role as Schools' Proprietor, and am the company lead for Ofsted systems and processes and the Group Quality Assurance systems and processes. I also act as the Clerk to the Governors.

In my role as Stakeholder Engagement Manager, I ensure that the 'voices' within our company are heard – pupils, parents and staff. I support the work of the Inclusion Model in ensuring that our Student Councils and Parent Councils are running effectively and are providing real positive change and challenge to each school and service. I aim to provide pupils, parents and staff with an

additional forum in which to celebrate success and discuss areas of concern.

I can often be found in school, either as part of the Governors' visits, Mocksted inspections or Quality Assurance monitoring visits. I am always available should there be anything pupils, parents, carers or staff need to discuss.

*[hollie.riley@tces.org.uk](mailto:hollie.riley@tces.org.uk)*



### Lesley Fish – Group Training and Quality Assurance Safeguarding Manager

Hello, I'm Lesley, I joined TCES Group in October 2011 as the Executive Assistant to Thomas Keaney and the Central Services Office Manager. In September 2017, I was promoted to this new role.

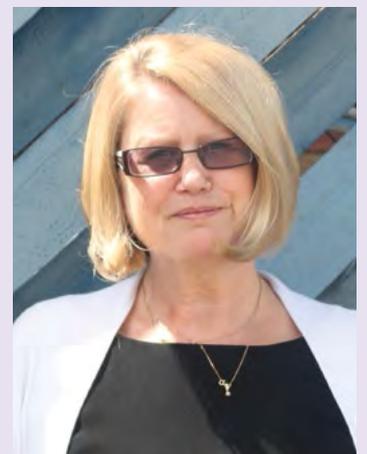
As company complaints lead I ensure that our processes empower individuals to use their voice if things go wrong.

I proactively manage and maintain processes and procedures around safeguarding in its widest form, including administration of Child Protection (CP), Cause for Concerns, Notifiable Incidents, e-Safety, training and meticulous Quality Assurance of these areas.

My role also includes management of policies for safeguarding including CP, Safer Recruitment, e-Safety including Acceptable Use and ICT, complaints and whistleblowing.

In my role as a CEOP (Child Exploitation On-line Protection) Ambassador, I ensure that all our systems are safe and secure and that staff are trained and kept up to date with the latest relevant information.

*[lesley.fish@tces.org.uk](mailto:lesley.fish@tces.org.uk)*





### Teaching Talent referral bonus scheme

Did you know that Teaching Talent operates a referral bonus scheme? Anyone who recommends teachers, TA's and LSA's to register and work through Teaching Talent can receive up to £300 of vouchers (depending upon role) once they have been placed on an assignment!

If you have anyone you wish to refer please call the office 020 8518 3779 or alternatively just pass on the office number.



Teaching Talent now has an allocated mainstream Primary and Secondary desk which includes SEN schools and covers the whole of the London and Essex areas.

The education recruitment specialists have had a very busy and productive year and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have registered and work through them at TCES Group schools and Create Service.

The team would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year.

### Biggest ever turn-out for Macmillan

Friday, 29 September was 'the world's biggest coffee morning' – Macmillan's annual fundraising event for people facing cancer. Many individuals and organisations throughout the UK hosted coffee mornings and TCES Group was no exception.

Each TCES Group School and Service (including Central Services) participated, with many pupils building on their existing leadership skills to bake, sell and organise events with minimal input from staff.

Charity Ambassador Tia took charge of setting up the cake sale outside NWLIS. Staff, parents and pupils brought in cakes, which were sold by pupils. NWLIS raised a fantastic £261 for Macmillan, reflecting the pupils' hard work.

Create London also held coffee mornings in Barking and Romford, with tutors and pupils baking cakes and serving drinks to their local communities, raising a grand total of £130 across both sites. Create Romford Student Council President Luke and his tutor Ife baked and decorated cup cakes and also collected donations. Staff and pupils came together to hear about the Macmillan charity, with pupils



*Cake sale opens at Central Services*

reflecting on the importance of charity work and how being involved helps them understand the circumstances of others, in turn making them more considerate individuals.

ELIS also held a cake sale, with pupils Jordan and Furkan baking a cake together to raise money. They said that the cake was "delicious, and really fun to make!"

Last but not least, Central Services staff raised £57.60 by holding their own cake sale at the head office in Wimbledon.

Efforts this year represent the largest ever turn-out from TCES Group pupils and staff for the Macmillan coffee morning fundraiser. Well done to all who participated; the bar has been raised and next year will prove even more successful!

**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Nov 11  
We will remember them. #Armistice #RemembranceDay2017



**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Oct 17  
It was good to meet the Create Service SLT to discuss a streamlined service offering. Watch this space!

**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Oct 6  
"Wonderfully friendly welcome from all pupils & staff. I can't wait for the next event. Thanks" A happy parent #positivefeedback

**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Sep 28  
Best of luck to our NWLIS Y6 pupil who is learning 'Peacock' for his 'LAMDA' Speaking Verse & Prose Entry Level exam

**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Sep 19  
Well done Liam for taking ownership of the EFS #Clacton school environment and doing a great job collecting leaves & litter.



**TCES Group @TCESgroup** Aug 11  
We love this display in a classroom at ELIS :)



# TCES Group is Anti-Bullying

This term, anti-bullying has been high on the agenda across the group, with Anti-Bullying Week taking place from 13-17 November. All schools and services have now elected Student Councils, within which are Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

EFS has shared some of its exciting anti-bullying strategies and activities:

- Business cards for Student Council and Anti-Bullying Council members
- An Anti-Bullying letterbox
- A pupil designed survey distributed across the school to find out what kind of bullying might be taking place
- A special anti-bullying song produced by Create Essex (see page 13)



The EFS anti-bullying letterbox (above) and business cards (below)



## Anti-Bullying Ambassador training courses

Two Anti-Bullying Ambassador training courses, held in September and November, were attended by pupils and staff across the group. These were part of the Diana Award Anti-Bullying Campaign's Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Programme. The programme aims to empower

students and staff through a holistic and peer-led approach, by engaging them to change the attitudes, behaviours, and culture of bullying by building skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and offline.

## Anti-Bullying Charter

After seeking the views of all pupils, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be getting together to develop a special TCES Group Anti-Bullying Charter that is owned by all pupils. Once the contents have been agreed, these will be designed as large signs that will adorn our schools and services, providing a real strengths-based message regarding anti-bullying across the group.

## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors conference

Following the training courses, the first companywide Anti-Bullying Ambassadors conference was held on 7 November at the Holiday Inn, Stratford City, led by Corinne Hyman, our Cross Company Pupil Voice Champion. Each school or service's Diana trained Anti-Bullying Ambassador completed this full day workshop based around their roles.

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum to meet and discuss current issues surrounding bullying in schools

"I think meetings like this really helps the reputation of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and helps the relationship between the schools. It can definitely help everyone better themselves." Aaron O, Head Boy & Anti-Bullying Ambassador, NWLIS

as well as an opportunity to begin strategising together as a whole team.

Corinne reported that students

behaved impeccably and truly represented their schools in

the best way possible. She said "I just wanted to say a big thank you to all staff who took part and supported me in the successful conference. I think the students behaved and engaged tremendously. I am so proud and look forward to the next one in the spring term."

Activities for the day included an icebreaker, short and long term goal planning, a brain storming activity where students had to identify the negative emotions associated with bullying and then stemming from that, identify the positive outcomes that they as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors would like to begin to see in their schools.

To round off the day, students and staff sat together to enjoy a lovely lunch in the restaurant.

"It was very good to meet everyone and to be in a conference. Now it makes you more confident." Isaac, Anti-Bullying Ambassador, Witham



# Anti-Bullying Week Poster competition

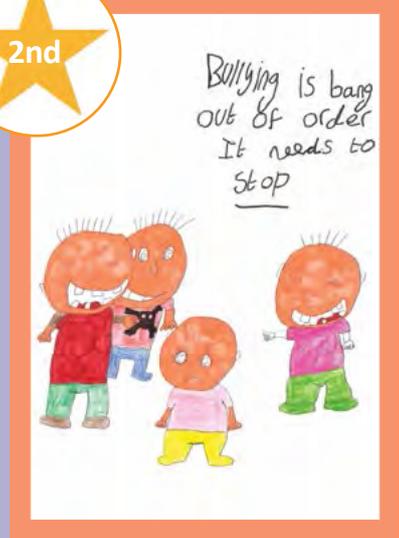
To celebrate Anti-Bullying Week we once again invited all pupils to design posters and were delighted at both the number and quality of the entries.

Stakeholder Engagement and Group QA Manager, Hollie Riley said, "The level of the artwork alongside some very heartfelt and hard-hitting messages has been overwhelming and all of the pupils should be very proud."

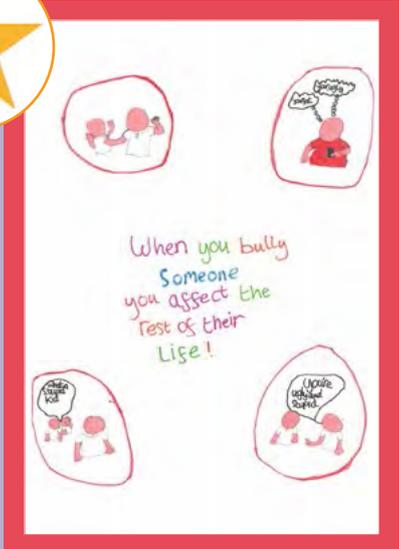
Here are the four winning entries and three runners-up that have been professionally printed in order to be displayed at each site across the group. Well done all!



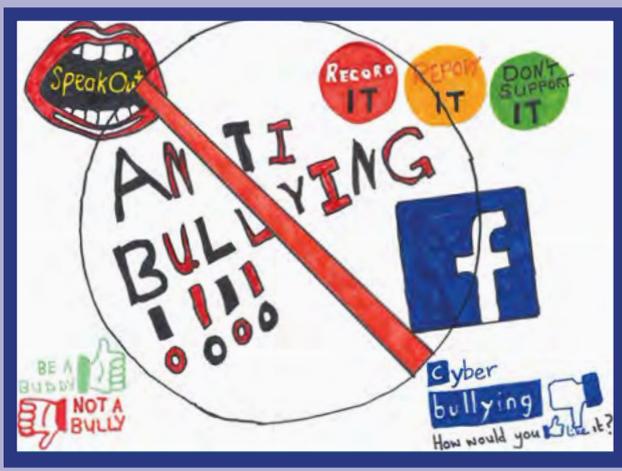
Joshua – EFS



Ethan – EFS



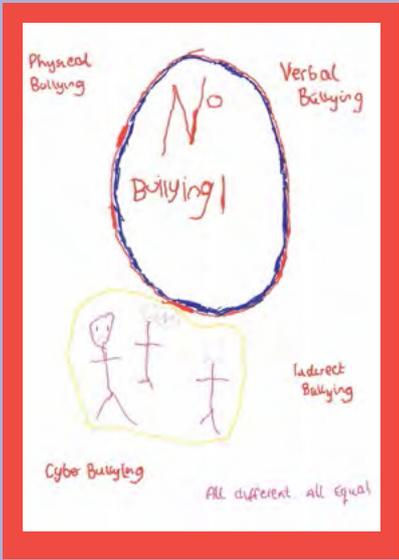
Steven – EFS



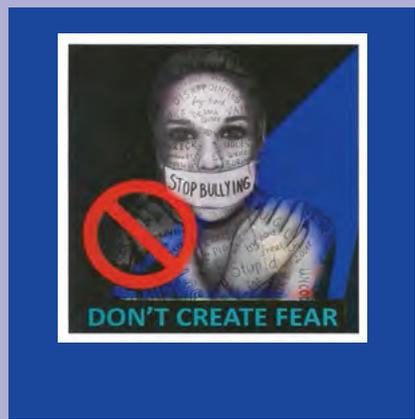
Jubayer – Create London



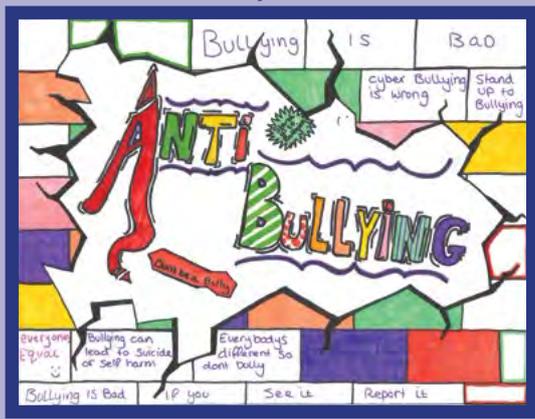
Chase – EFS



Tia – NWLIS



Kody – EFS



## Pupils achieve highest possible GCSE A\* grade

Two NWLIS pupils, Myles and Laquain, achieved GCSE A\* grades this summer in Art and Graphics; the highest possible grades. This is the first time A\* has been achieved by any pupil in the TCES Group.

This success is not limited to Art, as pupils also achieved their highest grades so far in Science, Maths and PE. Staff were delighted to report a 100% pass rate for all qualifications across the four subjects, plus a 94% pass rate for English. At the end of the last academic year, 75% of Y11 pupils left with five or more qualifications and all left with at least two.

Overall, the 2017 results for NWLIS are a remarkable achievement for pupils who have, on average, lost 18 months out of their education journey as well as having endured numerous interruptions and new starts.

NWLIS Art Teacher, Paul Morris, is already thinking about improvements for next year, despite 83% of his pupils achieving at least an A grade. "I have known for some time that we have some really talented pupils and I have worked diligently to support their progress throughout the year. I am really pleased, but not totally surprised, that the examiners agreed with my judgements.



"My targets for the year ahead are for all pupils to aim for an 'A' grade and to develop the A level work with those pupils continuing their post-16 education with NWLIS."

Katrina Medley and Kevin Parker, Co-Head Teachers of NWLIS, were keen to congratulate the staff team, past and present, who have supported the Y11s over time. They said, "TCES Group is relentless in its pursuit of Inclusion for our pupils. This is developed through various means, but ultimately pupils will find it easier to be included in adulthood if they hold the certificates and qualifications which enable them to access employment and education. These improved results demonstrate our commitment to deliver these for our pupils at NWLIS".

## 2017/18 Student Council

Eleven NWLIS pupils recently nominated themselves for the Student Council 2017/18 election. Each pupil delivered a presentation in front of a panel of four judges, giving credible reasons for wanting to be part of the Student Council and answering questions, demonstrating how much thought and effort they'd put in to their own suitability for the role.

As there are now four girls at the school it was agreed, for the first time, to create Head Boy and Head Girl roles. Following the true passion and innovative ideas shown for their subjects, a special primary representative will act as the voice of the younger children at NWLIS, while additional ambassador roles have been created to lead on both

the school environment and sports and activities.

The new Student Council and Sub Student Council was disclosed at a celebratory assembly, and are:

### STUDENT COUNCIL:

**President** - Hussein M  
**Vice President** - Adam  
**Treasurer** - Kishan  
**Head Boy** - Aaron O  
**Head Girl** - Faith  
**Anti-Bullying Ambassador** - Myles  
**Primary Representative** - Jahshaan

### SUB STUDENT COUNCIL:

**Charity Ambassador** - Tia  
**Community Ambassador** - Diaz  
**Sports & Activities Ambassador** - Ryan  
**School Environmental Ambassador** - Michael

Newly elected president, Hussein said, "I am proud to be the Student Council President representing NWLIS and



Tia, newly elected  
Charity Ambassador

also I am honoured to be the school's pupil voice. Before I leave I would like to give other students something I didn't have when I started school."

Pastoral Care Coordinator for NWLIS, Lateefah Elcock said, "We're looking forward to working with the new Student Council to help them to deliver their ideas for improving the day to day lives of the entire school community, following the mantra 'You said, we did'.

**Find out more:** [kevin.parker@tces.org.uk](mailto:kevin.parker@tces.org.uk) and [katrina.medley@tces.org.uk](mailto:katrina.medley@tces.org.uk)



## Stratford Marsh redevelopment and merge with Custom House

The past few months have seen many exciting changes to the Stratford Marsh new build, where work continues at a swift pace and is set to be completed on schedule (around Easter time).

The building's exterior, which previously stood as a church, gives the illusion of readiness with its smooth freshly painted cream walls. The car park directly outside the school has been newly tarmacked, with the added installation of a circular flower bed ready for planting.

Inside the building, we now have a school hall, sensory room and five classrooms plus a bathroom, with access to the main school to the rear of the building. The first floor is also in place, with seven classrooms and a bathroom.

The building is now structurally sound, with plumbing connected.

Building contractor Glorcroft is working on air conditioning installation, electrical wiring and wall plastering. Once complete, this will provide East London Independent School's expanded Stratford Marsh site with ample space, plus the addition of a sensory room allowing pupils with autism to develop and engage their senses in a stimulating environment. Due to the extensive nature of the redevelopment, we decided to close our Stratford Marsh site temporarily and move pupils to Custom House, where they are being educated together with existing Custom House pupils until the building works have been completed.

The merger of the two groups of pupils has already proved successful. Head Teacher Gareth Jones says, "We have gradually been creating more opportunities for the two student



groups to mix together and, following a successful joint breakfast on 8 December, we are looking forward to our joint Christmas lunch. We are also now holding our end of week Celebration Assemblies as a whole school event and it was great last week to watch how the students supported and applauded one another as the many certificates were given out."

To keep up to date with the latest refurbishment news, photographs and fly-through for Stratford Marsh, please visit our dedicated page on the TCES Group website: <http://www.tces.org.uk/category/stratford-marsh-building-and-redevelopment-plans/>



## Poetry competition generates five ELIS winners

TCES Group recently ran a poetry competition in honour of October's Black History Month (see page 5). Pupils, staff and parents were invited to submit entries to the competition, with no less than five ELIS pupils' poems being selected as winners and published in an exclusive poetry book! The book features the winning pupil, parent and staff entries, including Stephen-Lee, Aaliyah, Dominic, Harry and Maison – all from ELIS. A copy of the book was given to all pupils during a special celebratory assembly. ELIS pupil Maison deserves a special mention for his entry, a written article exploring the slave trade and prominent figures from that time. Maison delivered the article to his class, impressing staff and fellow pupils with his confident speaking and passionate delivery, while being filmed.

## ELIS pupil embarks on LIFE course

Y10 pupil Christopher has completed a LIFE (Local Intervention Fire Education) course this term at his local fire station. Launched in Tower Hamlets in 2002, the LIFE scheme now operates in all London boroughs and has so far engaged with more than 12,000 young people.

LIFE is an intensive five day course where 14-17 year olds work alongside

the Brigade, learning a variety of skills and about the role of a firefighter. It also helps to improve personal qualities, such as communication, relationships with supervisors and colleagues, punctuality, interest levels, effort, conduct/politeness, observation/listening and initiative. Christopher took part in a range of activities including casualty rescue

techniques and how to use essential breathing apparatus equipment. The LIFE course inspires young people to 'feel motivated with a new sense of direction and aspirations for the future.' A participants' survey certainly reflects this, with '100% of young people stating they were positively impacted by the course.' Well done Christopher!

Find out more: [gareth.jones@tces.org.uk](mailto:gareth.jones@tces.org.uk)

## Halloween at Clacton

EFS Clacton got into the spirit of things this Halloween by tucking into some fiendishly ghoulish lunch. Pupils and staff enjoyed 'eggtoplasma' sandwiches and devilish dessert, which (we're reliably informed) were tastier than they sound, before taking part in a pumpkin carving competition.

The competition proved more popular than ever, with many pupils contributing, making judging even more difficult. The winning entries (pictured) were carved by Dillon, Josh, Kody and Tyrese. Well done to all who took part!



## Y11 Graduation Ceremony

There was an abundance of pride and emotion among the attendees of EFS's Y11 graduation ceremony, held at Anglia Ruskin University on Friday 8 September. The audience included pupils' family members, Local Authority representatives, staff from EFS and the TCES Group head office.

Ruth Sturdy, Essex County Council's Lead School Effectiveness Partner for Inclusion, Standards and Excellence summed up the event, "It was an honour to be invited to the EFS graduation and a privilege to hear about and meet the young people who had clearly made so much progress in both their academic skills and subsequent qualifications, but also in their self-belief and confidence. The foundations of positive future lives are being built at EFS through an approach to education which is personalised to each young person and is aimed at ensuring that they are prepared in the widest sense for a positive future.

"The dedication of staff was manifest throughout the



event and was reflected in the positive relationships all the young people had developed with them. To see so many proud parents, carers, young people and staff was a fantastic way to spend a Friday evening."

Head Teacher of EFS, Cheryl Rutter, welcomed everyone before handing out special 'record of achievement' booklets to the Y11 pupils, each containing an impressive number of certificates marking their achievements. She confirmed that every Y11 pupil had ended the academic year with accreditations to take them forward in education or employment – with an average of six awards/qualifications each. An excellent result.

## Clacton pupils impress during pass out parade

November saw family, friends and staff from EFS Clacton school attend the pass out parade of three pupils: Ryan, Josh and Liam. The pupils successfully completed a week-long Firebreak programme, where they gained confidence and developed life skills on location at the fire station. The Firebreak programme aims to

promote a culture of safety, team work and citizenship whilst undertaking the various disciplines of the Fire Service. The intensive course allowed the pupils to learn the techniques used by fire fighters in their working lives, with the aim of reducing risky lifestyle choices. The pupils spent the week working alongside professional

firefighters at Clacton-on-Sea fire station before impressing staff, family and fellow pupils at their pass out parade. All three pupils proudly demonstrated the skills they had learnt during the week - their achievement and success left all those watching filled with pride and admiration. Well done boys!



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

## Create Essex pupils record song for Anti-Bullying Week!

To raise awareness for November's Anti-Bullying week, Create Essex pupils recorded their very own song! Originally featured on 'Britain's Got Talent' two years ago, the pupils edited the verse to suit their anti-bullying brief. The music was recorded and downloaded at the Create Essex hub by the music teacher. The pupils who sang on this recording were Pypa, Coco, Tyn and Oliver. To hear the song, go to TCES Group's website News & Events page: <http://www.tces.org.uk/category/news-and-events-blog/>

Pupils have had a busy term, with activities including Arts Week, poetry, a Mersea trip and competitions.

## Christmas Jumper Competition



EFS celebrated Arts Week by running a competition to design a Christmas jumper. The winner on each site won a Christmas jumper of their choice up to the value of £30. Coco was the Create Essex winner and picked this jumper as her prize. Great choice - very festive!

As part of Arts Week, students at Create Essex were visited by the Graffiti Kings. The professional street art and Graffiti company worked with the children to produce some excellent pieces of art and T-Shirts.



## Bake-off at EFS raises nearly £160 for Macmillan

EFS Witham held a bake-off to raise money for the Macmillan coffee morning in September, judged by Andrew Rudd, the local church warden. Both parents and pupils participated and raised almost £160.

Prizes were awarded to:

**Pupils:** 1st Ethan  
2nd Chase  
3rd Caleb

**Parents:** 1st Mrs Storrar  
2nd Jo Chittock  
3rd Mrs Simpson

Pupils were a credit to the school, welcoming guests, serving drinks, manning the cake stall and leading school tours. The staff team also enjoyed meeting the parents, and sharing their successes.

"Ethan enjoyed helping and selling his cakes. It was nice to see everyone have a good time, the pupils did very well with their cake making. All in all very good, thank you." *Parent*

"Thank you for a wonderful time at the Macmillan coffee morning. Tim really enjoyed helping with the buffet and making the cakes. Fantastic school. Thank you all." *Parent*

"What a lovely morning, it was a very warm welcome from everyone at the school. I hope you raised a lot of money for charity." *Parent*

"Thanks for a great day and thank you to everybody for all the fabulous things you do." *Parent*

EFS Clacton's bake-off saw pupil William taking first place with his delicious chocolate orange cake. Tyrese came second and Dillon third with his beautifully decorated gingerbread men.

Cheryl Rutter said, "A very successful Macmillan coffee morning was held in both Clacton and Witham Schools and was very well attended."

"Caleb was very happy to show off the cakes he made and I was so proud to see he had won 3rd place. Wonderfully friendly welcome from all pupils and staff. I cannot wait for the next event. Thanks for inviting me." *Parent*



"Thank you for the invite and the tour of the school. I look forward to working with the school and the wildlife projects in the churchyard... I would like to be invited to other school activities and build links with yourselves... thanks again." *Andrew Rudd*

Find out more: [nick.rigby@tces.org.uk](mailto:nick.rigby@tces.org.uk)

## Create (TEAM) Programme

Since 2013 our Create Service has grown organically, with considerable interest and placements from multiple Local Authorities, so we felt that the time had come to review and update the service.

In line with feedback already received from Local Authorities and staff, we are in the process of re-clarifying the service and are currently exploring a revised Create (TEAM) programme

– TEAM standing for Therapeutic Education, Assessment and Monitoring – which follows a two year programme, with a one year option.

For pupils, the programme's end goal is integration into our TCES Schools or progression to college, depending on the age of the individual.

At the same time, we're investigating how to make the referral process faster.

Further Local Authority consultations are planned for February, by which time the programmes, milestones, service standards and key deliverables will be provisionally agreed, and draft marketing materials will be available for comment. If you work for a Local Authority and would like further information please contact: [john.dunning@tces.org.uk](mailto:john.dunning@tces.org.uk).

## Governors' visit

The formal Governors' visit to Create London took place on 5 December. The day began at the Romford Therapeutic hub, where the Governors joined all pupils and staff for a group breakfast. The hub lead, Unell Felix, was the chef for the day, producing a wonderful cooked breakfast. This idea came directly from a Student Council request for more shared time together, which is proving to be a great success. Staff and pupils now come together to start the day in a positive way, sharing food and discussing the day ahead.

The Governors next moved on to Barking, where they were met by Jonathan, President of the Student Council. Jonathan conducted a full tour of the building, showing off all the classrooms and talking about what the pupils were learning. The Governors saw some amazing art work - pupils have been studying the works of Roald Dahl and the walls are quickly filling up with beautiful murals depicting his best stories.

Jonathan then cooked a delicious full three-course lunch with support from his teacher, Elfrida. All staff and pupils sat together to share the meal. Pupils were keen to talk to the Governors about Create London and how much they enjoy being there. As if this wasn't enough, there



was also entertainment provided by Nathan, who sung and performed songs on his guitar to a truly exceptional standard! Head of service, Colette Ferns, was quick to get the first autograph for when Nathan's name is up in lights! Thomas Keane said of the day, "We feel extremely lucky to have been part of a very special day here at Create London. We continue to be surprised by the incredible progress our children make in this service, taking them from total isolation into small groups and developing their independence and social skills so they are ready for the world when they leave us. On behalf of the Board of Governors I would like to thank Colette Ferns and her team and most importantly the pupils of Create London, for making us feel so welcome. We look forward to seeing you all again very soon."

## Christmas meal

Under the watchful instruction of tutor Elfrida, pupils from Create London's Barking Therapeutic Hub prepared and cooked a lovely Christmas meal for staff and themselves. This feast was followed by a Therapeutic energy release and group process.



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



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

# Clinical Corner

## Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) provides treatment and support for pupils who have specific difficulties with communication to help them to communicate better.

SALTs support children with primary speech, language and communication difficulties, such as stammering, as well as speech, language and communication difficulties that are secondary to other conditions including learning difficulties, autism and hearing problems.

Speech and language therapy is often multifaceted, involving language stimulation as well as the production of speech. Therapy objectives vary according to the individual child's needs and abilities. Most speech/language therapy plans focus on improving some combination of skill areas including: receptive language; expressive language; pragmatic or social skills;



articulation; oral motor skills; fluency; and voice quality.

Four of the Speech and Language Therapists working in TCES Group schools and our Create Service are supplied by Jessica Allen Speech and Language Therapy. Currently, Jessica supplies one SALT to each school/outreach provision.

Therapists work between two to three days in each school/outreach site.

The therapists support pupils with their understanding and use of language, along with developing their social skills in terms of friendships and interactions with adults. They might see pupils in 1:1 therapy or in groups as well as supporting them within the classroom.

Jessica and her team have also provided support with other clinicians for our group work interventions in our schools including running Social Use of Language Programmes for younger pupils and co-facilitating emotional regulation and social skills groups.

In addition, Jessica's team provides training to teaching staff on how to support language and social skills in class.

To find out more about Jessica and her team, please visit her website at

<http://www.allenspeechandlanguage.co.uk/about.htm>



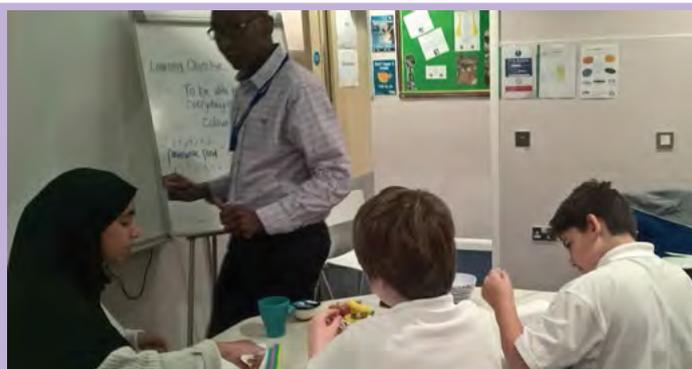
*Peter Finn, Director of Inclusion and Clinical Services*

## Moving pupils from isolation to independence

The Create Service offers a very bespoke education package for children and young people who come to us from enormously complex backgrounds. Often, this means that they cannot be educated in traditional school settings, as they struggle with being in groups.

At Create Service, the journey has begun to break down these barriers to learning. The team is rapidly transitioning the children into group learning environments, where they partake in group lessons as well as shared social time and activities. Throughout this transition, pupils are learning life and social skills which will stand them in good stead when the time comes for them to move on to further education, employment or training.

The journey starts with very small steps, for example, learning to take turns and listen to each other, before



moving on to develop leadership skills of their own. Led by Colette Ferns, Create London has already seen pupils start to mentor younger or new pupils and support them in making this difficult transition into a school environment. As a result, many of these children will eventually transfer back into one of our schools, where they will be taught in larger class groups, and could even transition back into mainstream school environments over time.

**Find out more:** [peter.finn@tces.org.uk](mailto:peter.finn@tces.org.uk)

# Christmas Card Winners

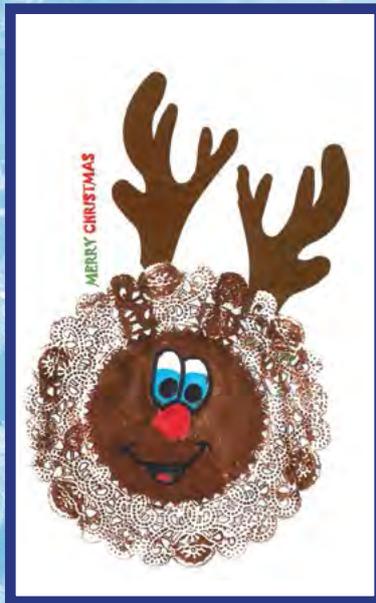
TCES Group's annual Christmas Card competition has once again produced some fantastic designs. Well done to our five winners, whose designs have been printed and turned into professionally produced Christmas cards!



Aaliyah



Antony



Kenzie D



Kenzie J



Joshua

