

TCES Group Bulletin

Winter 2018



Pupils' artwork provides colourful panels for Create School's playground.



East London
Independent School



North West London
Independent School



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School



Create Service
Personalised Therapeutic Education



CEO welcome



We're all very excited about TCES Group reaching its 20th year. It's amazing to think that, since 1999, we've been able to transform the lives of more than 3,000 children and young people.

Marking the start of our 20th year, we were delighted that Dame Esther Rantzen DBE agreed to become our patron and we look forward to working closely with her to further champion the talented young people we work with.

We have some grand plans for celebrating this significant anniversary, which you'll be hearing a lot more about as 2019 progresses. Leading up to this, we've had a specific focus on further developing our Create Service over the past 18 months, consulting both with staff and external partners and investing a lot of time and energy into evolving the existing service in London into a new school at our Custom House site. We will continue with this focus during our 20th year and will be making further announcements about our progress in due course.

One of our key objectives is to reintegrate our pupils back into small group education and eventually into more mainstream provision. It's always an extremely proud moment when one of our pupils is able to 'step down', from one-to-one support to group learning, or from our Create Service into one of our schools and, of course, from our schools into mainstream colleges. (See p12 for news of these successes at NWLIS and p14 for news of individual pupil success in 'stepping down' from our Create service to our schools.)

In the spirit of continuous improvement, a number of new initiatives have been added to the already busy TCES Group calendar this term – including an alumni peer mentoring scheme, fitness challenges for pupils and staff, cross company Student Council activities and parent workshops. You can read all about these in this issue, alongside news, achievements and successes across the group. On p15 we also talk about current development work that, following the completion of our wonderful ELIS site, is now concentrated on our newly developing Create school.

Again with continuous improvement in mind, we will shortly be sending a reader survey to all recipients of our TCES Group bulletin. Please do take the time to complete this survey so that we can ensure that the bulletin is providing you with the information and news that you really find useful. Should you have any comments in the meantime, please email these to marketing@tces.org.uk

All that is left for me to do now is to send you all season's greetings and to wish you a very happy New Year from all of us at TCES Group.

Thomas Keane, Chief Executive and Schools' Proprietor @TCESgroupCEO

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This Bulletin is produced by the TCES Group. We run three independent day schools and a specialist service called Create, that provides 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*)
Essex Fresh Start (*Clacton and Witham*)
North West London Independent School (*Acton*)

Our Create Services are:

Create School (*Custom House*)
Create Service Essex (*Clacton and Witham*)

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

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



In the news

Dame Esther Rantzen becomes our Patron

Dame Esther Rantzen DBE, Founder of Childline and presenter of the UK's iconic TV programme 'That's Life', has been named as Patron of TCES Group, to mark the beginning of our 20th anniversary year.

Dame Esther is taking up the role to help raise awareness of how specialist therapeutic education for children and young people can positively transform their lives.

At TCES Group, our approach to teaching children and young people aims to be inclusive and unique. In addition to more traditional class-based teaching of core subjects and a wide range of accredited courses, pupils are taught leadership, and thinking and social skills.

Dame Esther Rantzen says: "I'm delighted to be Patron for TCES Group and to champion these young people.

"I have seen first-hand how this unique formula for therapeutic education can work – how the positive environments and supportive staff team are helping children to build trust and respect.

"During my visit to ELIS earlier this year, I spoke to a group of mature and confident young people who, despite significant learning challenges, are now embracing education at TCES Group and demonstrating that they are society's potential young leaders of the future."

CEO and Schools' proprietor Thomas Keaney says: "I'd like to thank Dame Esther on behalf of all of our staff, Governors and especially the children, for agreeing to become our Patron - marking the start of our 20th anniversary year. We are thrilled and honoured.

"Over these past 19 plus years we believe that we have learned, through continuous improvement, how to successfully engage with some of the most complex children and young people in the country, with severe mental health problems, co-morbid autistic spectrum condition and challenging behaviour.

"I am proud to say that we have never permanently excluded one of the 3,000 plus pupils that we have educated in this time. We have been very privileged to support these SEND pupils, many of whom are Children in Care. Without this support, too many of these pupils end up becoming negative statistics in terms of unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness or prison. This vital investment in these pupils reduces the emotional cost to the pupils and their families and the long term and very significant financial cost to society".



Willard Wigan MBE inspires unique NWLIS pupils

In September, NWLIS welcomed the creator of the world's smallest handmade sculptures.

Internationally-renowned micro-sculptor Willard Wigan enthralled pupils and staff, showcasing his microscopic art by way of visual aids and microscopes, enabling pupils to discover an enticing world carved from a variety of materials that can sit within the eye of a needle or the tip of an eyelash.

Willard spoke of his own experiences as a child at school, where he struggled with autism and dyslexia. He spoke of being 'blessed, not bitter' about his diagnoses, encouraging pupils to embrace their 'hidden talents' as a gift to the world.

Willard advised: "Don't underestimate the tidal wave of talent at NWLIS.

This is where it is: the pupils here are unique. Some of the best engineers in the world could come from here. This is Britain at its best."

Student Council members Rochelle and Bailey confidently and articulately toured the school with Willard. Particularly impressed with the school's Art Department, Willard spoke to several pupils, including post-16 student Michael, who played his film 'Stormie and Friends' (a stop-motion animated film making technique). Fellow post-16 art student Myles was particularly impressed with Willard's sculptures and managed to photograph them by pointing his

camera onto the microscope lens. TCES Group CEO & Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney reflected, "What an amazing day at NWLIS. Willard Wigan is the most inspirational man. He talked to our pupils about being bullied and ignored by teachers and how he sees his Asperger's Syndrome as a gift. Now he makes micro-sculptures, one given to the Queen, and he is an MBE."



Pupil Adam with Willard Wigan MBE.

Videos of Dame Esther Rantzen at ELIS and Willard Wigan at NWLIS can be found on our website homepage: www.tces.org.uk

In the news

20th year anniversary

To mark TCES Group's 20th year anniversary, pupils were asked to help design the logo that will be used throughout our celebratory year. Congratulations to Jalal from ELIS who created the design that we've chosen to base our '20th year logo' on and thank you to his TA, Raseal Ali. Jalal's logo already looked very professional so

didn't require much work by our designer to turn it into the logo below, that also incorporates a couple of other ideas we liked.



BHM Poetry Competition

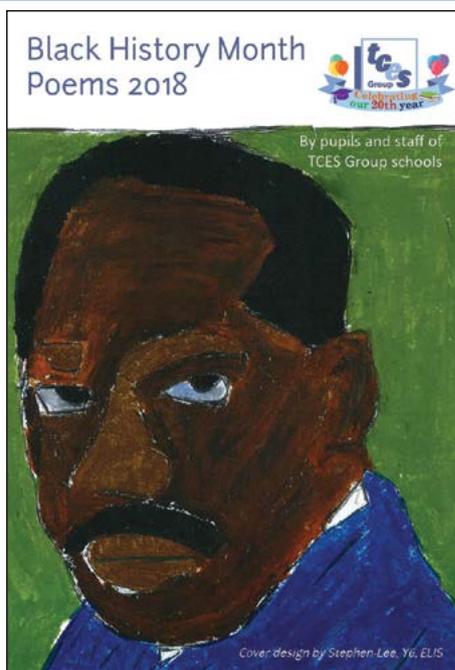
As last year, for October's Black History Month TCES Group ran a poetry competition, which was open to pupils and staff. Thank you to all who contributed such imaginative and wonderful poems! The winners are:

Pupil: Leroy, ELIS

Staff: Sheeva,
Speech and Language Therapist

Joint entry: Antony and Yemi, ELIS

A dedicated booklet is available (in hard copy and on our website) with all the entries included for everybody to enjoy, along with a selection of artwork that was created to celebrate Black History Month 2018.



Living Landscapes award

EFS Witham was presented with a Living Landscapes Award in September in recognition of achievements over the last two years with the Wildlife Trust, who attend the school every Wednesday, come rain or shine.



The school was nominated and won because of its pupils' work and understanding of protecting wildlife and looking after their environment. This includes: making a huge bug hotel, compost bins, bird boxes and bird feeders; litter picking in the local community; project work at the local church such as clearing graves, putting up bird boxes, bird feeders and compost bins in the church grounds; scrub clearance and bug hunting; and building a fedge, (cross between a hedge and a fence) in the school field.

Using the Student Council budget, the latest project is an outside gazebo, which will provide shelter in bad weather.

Karen Juby, Pastoral Care Coordinator, who collected the award on the school's behalf, said "We are very proud of what the pupils have achieved."

Teaching Talent tutoring

Teaching Talent Tutoring provides specialist interim tutoring for pupils who are excluded, non-attending, in transition or waiting for a school placement or alternative provision. The service provides community-based, individualised learning support packages that aim to support these pupils to reintegrate smoothly into specialist or mainstream education as soon as possible. The service may assist in keeping young people away from antisocial behaviour while out of education, support Local Authorities to meet their statutory requirements and may also assist in avoiding lengthy tribunals.

If you'd like a copy of the new Teaching Talent Tutoring leaflet that provides comprehensive information for Local Authorities, or if you're a tutor who is interested in applying to work for the service please contact Maria: maria.takkou@teachingtalent.co.uk

Tutoring

Specialist interim tutoring for SEND pupils who are:

- excluded
- non-attending
- in transition/waiting for a school placement or alternative provision

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Alumni peer mentoring

NWLIS has begun an exciting alumni peer mentorship programme, providing support and guidance to the school's pupils. This is the first of its kind in TCES Group's 19 year history. Former students Hussein, Laquain and Nick were interviewed by staff members with respect to them joining the school in an entirely new capacity – as members of the staff team.

Alumni peer mentors will be participating in the school's group process sessions, working with tutor groups and facilitating assemblies to assist staff in delivering key messages to pupils. Above all, the mentors will inspire and encourage leadership and positivity in our younger pupils.



CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said, "I've interviewed hundreds of staff over the years but never have I interviewed such passionate, talented students who really want to make a difference. Their special needs backgrounds are where their talents come from and all three will be an absolute asset to their mentees. I'm so proud. This is a very exciting milestone that embodies our values: nurture, attachment, very high expectations and a never give up staff attitude."

National Fitness Day challenges

Wellbeing Coach Ben Green put together a number of fitness challenges for all TCES Group schools to take part in on National Fitness Day. The event provides a chance to raise awareness of the importance of leading an active and healthier lifestyle. Hoping that as many pupils and staff as possible would take part, Ben encouraged some friendly



Pupils and staff at ELIS pushed themselves to the limits rising to the fitness challenges set by Ben.



competition between the schools in order to crown a TCES Group fitness champion!

For those who didn't want to take part in the physical part of the day there was a poster competition for which pupils were encouraged to get creative in order to inspire others to lead an active and healthy lifestyle.



Jack, a Y9 EFS pupil, walked eight miles around Alton Water, a challenging track that EFS pupils usually cycle around. Well done Jack – who managed to walk round in three hours!

Combining Leadership Week and National Fitness Day, two Y11 EFS Clacton pupils took Nurture Class as well as some staff for a PE lesson. The prior planning by the boys resulted in a fun and engaging session enjoyed by all!

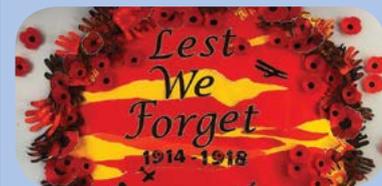
TCES Group @TCESgroup Dec 18
Congratulations to NWLIS for achieving 'Working towards Artsmark' status. We look forward to working with @A_New_Direction who will be supporting our #school on its journey towards #artsmark.



TCES Group @TCESgroup Dec 4
ELIS pupils had a great time visiting the House of #Parliament yesterday. Aaliyah loved the buildings as they were so grand. Ali said it was nice to see the set up of the #Government and how it all works.



TCES Group @TCESgroup Nov 11
#RemembranceDay2018
Stunning wall display made by EFS Clacton.



TCES Group @TCESgroup Oct 19
As part of #BlackHistoryMonth pupils at Create London explored the #WindrushGeneration, with an opportunity to look at a 1918 British passport, belonging to a resident of Jamaica (a tutor's Great Grandfather). Pupils discussed the meaning of the words 'empire' and 'independence.'



Young Leaders

Presenting ideas

Newly-elected Student Council members at EFS Schools in Witham and Clacton brilliantly presented their ideas for the forthcoming academic year to the staff Management Development Group (MDG) in early October. The pupils were also able to ask staff for advice about their projects.



Kavanagh and Harrison from EFS Clacton Student Council.

The Clacton Student Council – brilliantly represented by Kavanagh and Harrison, told the audience about the exciting new initiatives that the Student Council is focusing on this year – including further improvements to the outside space, improving the dining hall and a special Halloween day at school.



EFS Witham Student Council proudly presenting their Living Landscape Award to the MDG (see p4) and talking about their achievements to date.



At NWLIS pupils presented to a panel, on why they should be elected to the Student Council.



ELIS pupils learn what it takes to become a leader.

Uniting Student Councils

On 27 November Student Councils from all TCES Group schools visited Stubbers Adventure Centre in Essex for a day of team-building. This is the first of many planned cross-company Student Council benefits. It was designed so that pupils would interact with each other and start working much closer together as a united Student Council across the group.

Throughout the day all pupils took part in three outdoor adventure activities – laser tag, archery and bell boating – in activity groups based on age, rather than school, ensuring that participants would work together with pupils from other schools.

“ It was a good day, I really enjoyed the boating, it was the best part of the day. It was nice to meet other pupils from different schools. ”
Preston, EFS Clacton

Student Council members from ELIS loved the day, describing it as a brilliant experience, although they weren't so happy about the cold

and damp weather. Some of them found it difficult not being with their peers at first but said that they enjoyed mixing with the others.

“ It was an enjoyable and fun day and I would definitely go again. I thought the laser tag was the best part of the day. ”

Kavanagh, EFS Clacton

All the EFS Witham Student Council members absolutely loved the laser tag and thought it was fantastic playing it outside in a field, reporting that staff could not believe how serious they looked and how seriously they were taking it. They also loved the canoeing and being on the water, saying that the weather did not spoil it for them. Overall they enjoyed the day and meeting all the other Student Council members.

NWLIS pupils thought it was a good day out and especially enjoyed the Laser Tag. However they would have preferred it to be in Spring/Summer as it was too cold for them! They loved getting to know the other Student Council members and have asked for more activities and opportunities to get together with them.



Leadership week

Following the launch of our leadership curriculum in June 2017, each school participated in Leadership Week from 24-28 September. The week is designed to teach leadership skills by introducing a variety of exciting activities for pupils.

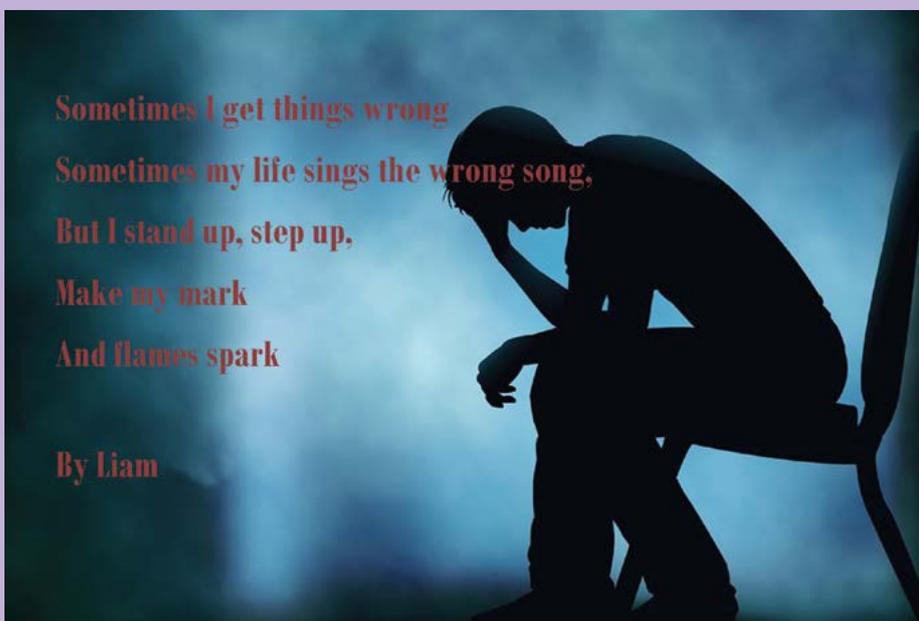
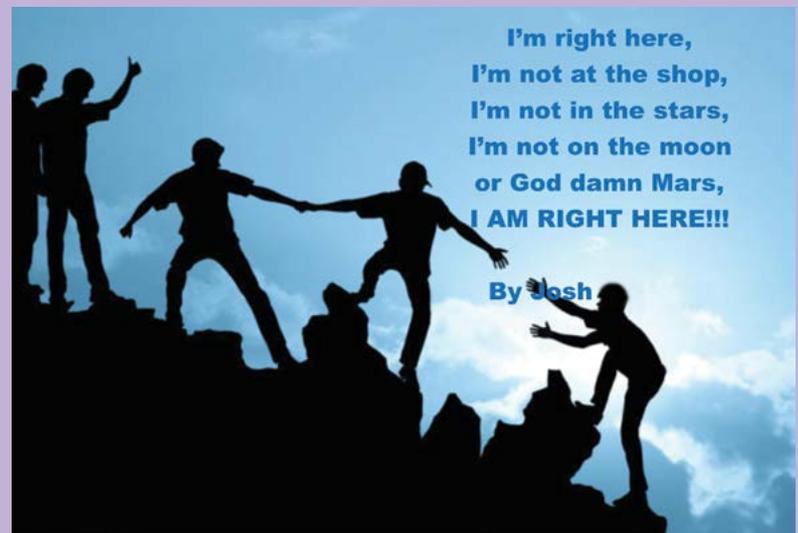
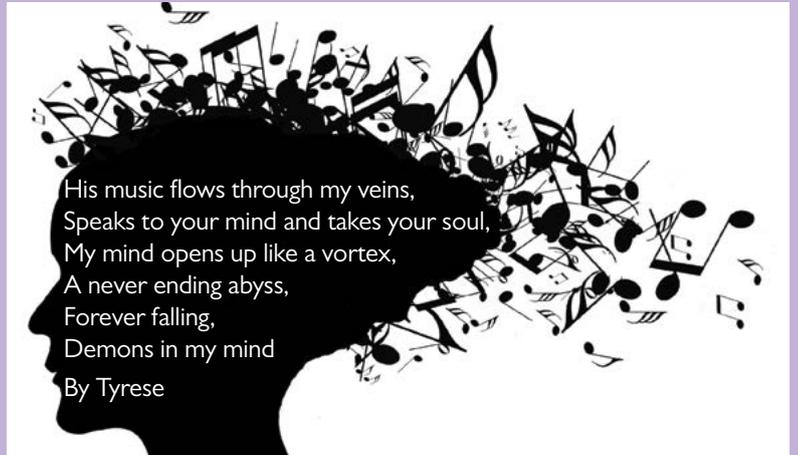
We believe that by learning to understand themselves, pupils develop strengths and talents in leadership that offer benefits for the individual, their group, the whole school and their communities beyond TCES Group.

Every pupil from KS2 upwards now has the opportunity to take part in leadership skills training. Pupils progress to mentoring their peers and to taking on leadership roles within school, such as election to Student Council.

EFS kicked off Leadership Week events with their Nurture Group supporting the local soup kitchen; a combined Harvest Festival activity (see p13). They also wrote the brilliant poems on this page in support of their efforts to help those less fortunate than themselves.

ELIS pupils took part in a leadership assembly, with pupil Ali taking the lead in his role as assembly technician.

Create London pupils learned about the leadership roles that are available within their Student Council and NWLIS drew inspiration from a recent visit to their school by the sculptor Willard Wigan MBE (see p3). Pupils also took part in Student Council presentations and created artwork around the concepts of leadership versus fame.



Anti-Bullying Week

NWLIS

For NWLIS the week started with a whole school assembly to introduce 'respect' as the theme and to encourage pupils to always disagree respectfully.

During group process KS3/4 classes debated the question: 'Is it possible to move from being a bully to a leader?' A cyberbullying workshop for the same group looked at different forms of cyberbullying, the laws behind it and the harm it can cause to others. Discussion focussed on whether

participants had been 'harassed' online or had ever harassed others. The pupils were very honest and provided good examples of personal experiences.

When KS2 pupils discussed the topic of respect they were split into groups and asked to 'act out' examples of acts of respect/disrespect. Mr. Ross, James and Ridwan acted out a scenario where a student witnessed bullying and told a member of staff, while Ms. Medley and Kenza acted out a scene where they weren't sharing pens!

Later in the week David Pacquette, a two times World Champion ranked number one in Britain for Muay Thai fighting visited NWLIS as a guest speaker. David now trains other fighters and is a Master in Hypnotherapy. He told pupils about respect, self-discipline and his early life.



Liam to the rescue

Such is the success of the anti-bullying work at EFS Clacton, that seeing Teaching Assistant Geraldine being physically assaulted by a Y7 pupil, Liam, a member of the school's Anti-Bullying Council, stepped in and protected her.

Liam had already left school for the day, but witnessed the younger pupil refusing to get into his taxi and striking out at the teacher. Without hesitating, he went back through the school gates and told the pupil to stop. He used no force, but reasoned with the other pupil, reminding him "that teachers don't get paid to get hit."

Liam said "I was aware that this pupil had been hitting out at Geraldine and other staff throughout the day. Enough was enough – I couldn't stand



by and watch this happening so just reacted in the way that felt right."

Geraldine was extremely grateful for Liam's support, saying, "I'm so proud of Liam."

Liam says that being on the Student Council and attending anti-bullying ambassador training has been really

beneficial. "I'm able to make the right choices now and take responsibility. When I first started at EFS I used to rebel and do things like taking the teacher's keys and hiding them."

On that particular day's events he said, "Before, I would have physically tried to stop the other pupil, but I've learned now how to talk to others about not using bullying behaviour and am able to reason with them, which is much better."

A policy used at EFS Witham, where anyone caught bullying another pupil is brought into the weekly Student Council meeting to discuss their behaviour with the members, is proving a successful way to put a stop to bullying and is to be picked up by other Student Councils within TCES Group schools.

Anti-bullying week conference

The pupils from all TCES Group schools who gathered for a successful workshop on 1 November, based around their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, behaved impeccably and truly represented their schools in the best way possible. Activities included an icebreaker called 'stand up if...', short and long term goal planning, looking at different resources the Ambassadors could use in their schools, working in small groups to create a new TCES

"I quite enjoyed my visit because of how interesting and important anti-bullying is, so thank you so much for giving me and others a great experience." – Furkan, ELIS

"I thought it helped me develop skills necessary to combat bullying." – Callum, EFS

Group anti-bullying slogan/hashtag and guest speakers from NWLIS talking about The Diana Award. The day finished with the presentation of certificates and group photos before a well-deserved lunch.



12-16 November

ELIS

The ELIS Student Council ran their own Anti-Bullying assembly and later in the week group process was used to discuss the topic.



Meanwhile, Aaliyah made worry dolls for new pupils and those who are sad or being bullied.



Poster competition

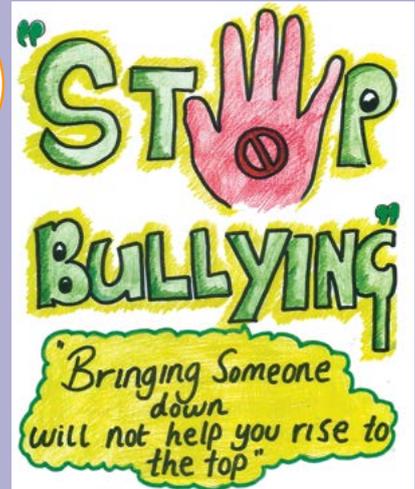
To celebrate Anti-Bullying Week we once again invited all pupils to design posters and were delighted at both the number and quality of the entries.

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."

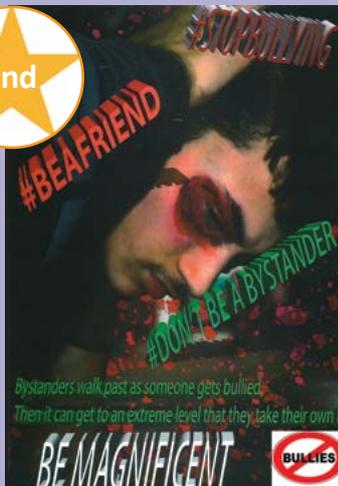
Here are the four winning entries and three runners-up. All seven have been professionally printed in order to be displayed at each site across the group. Well done all!



Kiarn, ELIS



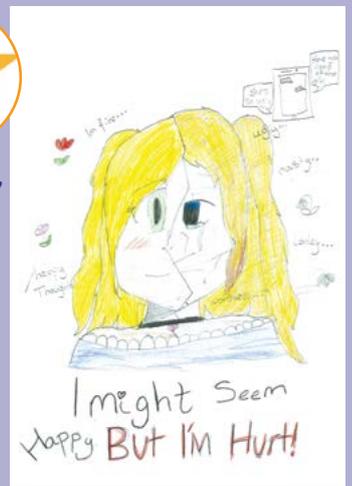
Myles, NWLIS



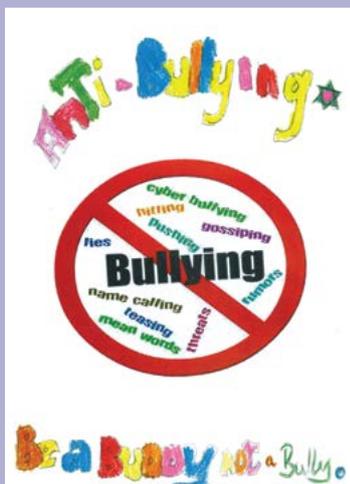
Preston, EFS



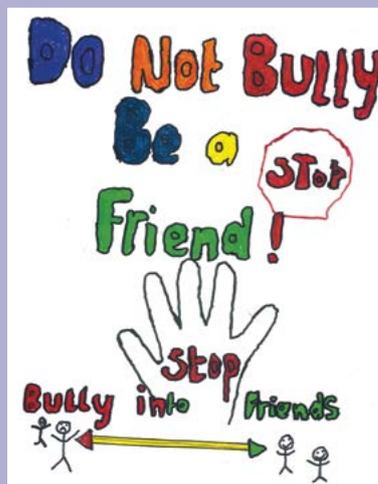
Jonathan, Create/ELIS



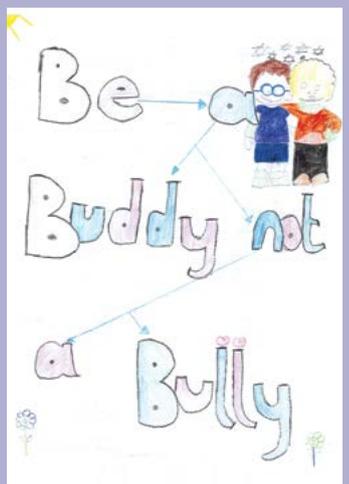
Joe, NWLIS



Dillon, EFS Clacton



Chelsea, Create/ELIS



Parent page

Parent, pupil and staff workshops

New for this year, we have planned a series of parent workshops at every school, as a direct response to parents and carers telling us what they'd like to learn about. The first of these workshops took place in October at each of our schools or services, with a series of interactive and informative workshops run by Only Cowards Carry (OCC), a weapons awareness charity based in Essex.

The charity was founded in November 2012 by Caroline Shearer in memory of her 17 year old son Jay Whiston, who was fatally stabbed in September 2012. Continually driven by the devastating loss of Jay, Caroline and the team have worked tirelessly to promote Only Cowards Carry Weapons Awareness in the hope that young people understand the stark facts and devastating, life changing, true reality of knife crime.

During our workshops, the OCC team worked with children, staff and parents/carers to teach them the damage that using knives as weapons can cause, not only physically to the victim, but emotionally and psychologically to the families and friends of the victim and even to the perpetrator themselves. The workshops, whilst a very serious



Learning about knife crime at ELIS.

subject matter, were fun and engaging. Lots of volunteers from the audience joined the presenters in recreating dangerous situations, learning about the effects of knife wounds on the body and, most importantly, learning how to keep themselves safe if ever attacked by someone wielding a knife.

We were extremely pleased that so many parents came to join our pupils and staff in the first of these workshops and look forward to welcoming even more at the next one, coming in the Spring term – watch this space for more information.



Learning self-defence at Create Service.

Create School holds first Parent Council meeting

Create School welcomed three parents to its first Parent Council meeting at Custom House on 27 November. Over coffee, the parents explored what a Parent Council is and its function.

They also used the opportunity to share stories about their experiences raising Autistic children, and became quite emotional, comforting one another and identifying with each other's pain. One mother in particular was very helpful, offering advice and information to the others, based on her experience raising three children with special needs and having to overcome numerous obstacles to get the best for her children.

She has agreed to be the parent lead representative so she will be at the forefront for the Create London Parent Council. Their next meeting will be in the Spring term and all Create London parents are welcome. Please contact Custom House for details.

Winifred Alexander, an AOT at Create School who organised and facilitated the meeting reports that the parents expressed how happy they were with the Create Service, saying they don't know where they or their child would be without it.

ELIS parents evening

All 19 parents who had agreed to attend the ELIS parents evening this term attended and found it engaging. Parents enjoyed discussing their child's progress, and how best to support their child's learning at home, with each subject teacher. One father was almost in tears as he viewed his son's book. He was

amazed with the level of progress his son had made in such a short time, saying "I cannot believe that my son did this. Are you sure he did all this work? God bless this school. My son didn't do any of this in his previous school... I can't believe this."

Another parent stated "I am so happy with my son's progress, he has

come a long way. His attendance is coming on... I am very happy with his progress.... a massive change."

Staff feedback was that: "The parents evening was extremely successful. In addition, we also held drop-in parents' meetings for those who were unable attend the scheduled event."

Find out more: hollie.riley@tces.org.uk





East London
Independent School

East London Independent School (ELIS)

Collecting IQM award

Following the award of the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) in June, representatives from the school proudly attended the official presentation ceremony at the Institute of Directors in London's Pall Mall in September. Accompanying Head Teacher Sandra Harrison was Y9 pupil Antony, School Improvement Partner Kevin Parker



Kevin Parker, pupil Antony and Sandra Harrison.

and Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator Leona Talian.

Both TCES Group London-based schools have now achieved this prestigious award – NWLIS was awarded the IQM in 2017.

The IQM scheme allows for the exploration of all aspects of education within the school, with the process affording a complete snapshot of school life. The IQM award provides evidence of all the incredible hard work that is ongoing at ELIS.



Antony with Sandra Harrison and Leona Talian at the Institute of Directors in Pall Mall.

Remembrance Day

ELIS had a busy day on 9 November – pupils spent time making poppies, watched a Remembrance Day documentary over breakfast and held a one minute silence in assembly.



Pupils and staff at ELIS wore their own clothes to school on 16 November and donated £1 to Children in Need. Ali, as Treasurer of the Student Council, collected their donations.

Tutor group of the week

At the end of November one of the ELIS primary classes enjoyed an amazing celebratory breakfast after being named 'tutor group of the week' for the first time. They chose to have breakfast in school instead of going out and were treated to a variety of healthy options.



To support World Mental Health Day all members of ELIS staff wore yellow and donated £1 each.



Successful pupil transitions

Across the TCES Group we often welcome new pupils who require support outside our core offer, so in order to ensure a successful transition into school they might receive additional one-to-one funding for a set period of time.

We are always delighted when, following careful planning and intensive intervention, these pupils no longer require one-to-one help and have been able to 'step down' and transition into group learning. We are especially delighted when this transition occurs prior to the agreed time frame.

At NWLIS we're proud to report that staff have successfully transitioned seven pupils from one-to-one into group learning over the past academic year, and that four of these were transitioned early. This really is a great result.

National Recycling Week

NWLIS pupils took part in National Recycling Week, led by Assistant Environmental Ambassador, Ridwan. They posted information around the school about recycling and used empty printing paper boxes to make their own paper recycling boxes for each class.



Find out more: katrina.medley@tces.org.uk

Ealing Councillor visit to NWLIS

On 13 November Katherine (Kate) Crawford, Councillor for East Acton, visited NWLIS as part of 'Women in Parliament Week'. Kate met with three pupils – Diaz, Kenza and Paris - and spoke to them about her role for the Council as well as how she came to work as a Councillor.

Kate told the girls that, when at school, she didn't think she'd have such a good job as she found remembering a challenge. However, she discovered a talent for drawing and was also a good runner. Building on this drawing talent, Kate became a magazine designer when she left school. She told the girls how important it is for women to succeed and that if you know what you want and are prepared to work for it, it's possible to achieve.

Responding to Diaz's question about how it feels to be a female Councillor Kate said that it makes her feel very useful and that it's good to be able help people solve their problems. In

her 20 years as a Councillor Kate has been able to make a difference to many families and individuals. The girls especially enjoyed hearing about instances when Kate had managed to help older members of the community when they were experiencing difficulties.

Kate's interest in becoming a Councillor began after a battle to get her own son, who is disabled, into the school she wanted him to attend. After this she started a parent group for others going through similar experiences, helping them through tribunals and other obstacles. A series of complicated cases convinced her that with her experience in supporting families she would serve her community well as a councillor.

On discovering a shared interest in art, Kate asked whether she could return to the school for an art session with the girls. Diaz and Paris both brought examples of their work to show Kate, who was suitably impressed.



Pupils lead on interviews

Every TCES Group pupil studies an appropriate leadership option throughout their education, as part of the LIFE programme. This is supplemented by equally important leadership development activities and opportunities. Developing leadership skills in our pupils is a challenging, complex but vital task for the whole school team that has benefits for the individual, their group, the whole school and their communities beyond TCES Group.

At NWLIS, an innovative initiative this term has been to involve pupils in staff interviews for new teachers. Prior to the interviews the pupils even came up with their own set of questions.

Afterwards Diaz said, "It was good, actually it was very good. It was a huge responsibility and normally kids like me wouldn't get this opportunity so I am proud."

Romeo added, "It made me feel like I was worth it."



Essex Fresh Start
Independent School

Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS)

Graduation

The annual EFS graduation ceremony at Anglia Ruskin University saw pupils, parents, staff and Local Authority representatives gather to celebrate the impressive achievements of the 24 Y11 and Y12 pupils who graduated at the end of the summer term. Many have gained places at local colleges. Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter praised pupils for their hard work in gaining a variety of qualifications, including GCSEs and BTECs, while CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney described the ceremony as 'inspirational', saying how proud he was of both the pupils and staff.

Gwen Trapp, SEN Manager of Children's Services at Thurrock Council, said "This evening was really lovely and something to celebrate. The confidence in the pupils is evident and they continue to progress." Ryan, who graduated with a Level 1 mechanics course is now attending college to study the level 2 mechanics course, with a view to gaining a mechanics apprenticeship. Ryan said, "EFS has really helped me out. I've progressed a huge amount." His dad added, "I wish Ryan had started here earlier. His attitude has changed completely; there was no hope before. I'm so proud of what he's achieved at EFS."



Ryan with Head Teacher Cheryl Rutter.

A video of the graduation ceremony can be found on our website at: www.tces.org.uk/schools/schools/essex-fresh-start-independent-school/efs-gallery/

Restorative Justice

All EFS pupils fully engaged in and enjoyed an interactive Restorative Justice programme led by the Youth Offending Service. Student Council members will now receive further training to enhance their skills.



Pumpkin carving competition

The pumpkin carving competition at EFS Clacton attracted so many outstanding entries that judging was very challenging. However, after much debate, Kav took first prize, Tyn second and Harry third.



100% attendance record!

We are all extremely proud of Callum from EFS Clacton who has achieved 100% attendance for an entire year. Attending the school to see Callum presented with a special award, Hollie Riley, Stakeholder Engagement Manager said, "This is such a great achievement for Callum, which shows a real commitment to learning."



Pupils lead Harvest Festival

Staff at EFS Clacton are really proud of Nurture group pupils who demonstrated their leadership skills by organising the school's Harvest Festival activities. They started Leadership Week by giving a presentation, which focussed on Harvest Festival, and produced leaflets asking staff and pupils to donate items. Later in the week they met with a representative from the Salvation Army who collected the donated food items for their soup kitchen.



Tea at the Town Hall

On 5 December EFS Clacton's Primary Nurture group was invited to tea at the Town Hall with the Chairman of Tendring County Council – Mark Platt. Pupils reported that it was exciting to meet such an important person and have invited him to visit the school for afternoon tea.



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

Celebrating success

Staff, pupils and parents gathered at Create School on 21 September to celebrate the achievements of pupils in an uplifting graduation ceremony.

Several pupils are in the process of moving across to ELIS, affording them the opportunity to transition back into a school environment. Other pupils were recognised for their positive engagement and personal development throughout the academic year.

Student Council representatives proudly showed groups of parents around the site at Custom House before the ceremony commenced in the main hall.

Evangelia Theochari, Co-Head of Create said "I am immensely proud and very happy to see the progress that our young people have made regardless of their challenges. Their achievements need to be noted because their efforts are enormous and against all odds. These young people are being prepared to take over their rightful place in our society as the young leaders of tomorrow."



Joshua with Evangelia Theochari, Co-Head of Create and Lead Clinician-Deputy Head of Inclusion.

A video of the graduation ceremony can be found on our website at: <http://www.tces.org.uk/create-service/create-london-graduation-ceremony-2018/>

Good news postcards

Nurture group at the Barking Therapeutic Hub have designed these lovely school postcards that will be used to send good news home to parents and carers.



Remembrance Day

Pupils at Create School carried out an art project around the poppy as a symbol for Remembrance Day, using recycled plastic materials and plasticine.

They also had a special Remembrance Day assembly and took part in activities including war poetry in English and a quiz won by William.

Deputy Head Teacher Dawn Jones-Wigington reported that "The young people really enjoyed learning about it."



Christmas tree

Nathan got everyone into the Christmas spirit early, creating this amazing Christmas tree.



In the spotlight ...



Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead, *Sonia Ghaznavi*

Due to the growth of the TCES Group and the complexity of our pupils in school and especially in our Create Service, we have recruited a new Safeguarding and Child Protection Lead, Sonia Ghaznavi. In this new role Sonia will have much more direct input to Designated Safeguarding Teams and will also lead on Safeguarding Case Work in all our schools and services.



A qualified Social Worker, Sonia has been working in Child Protection and within therapeutic settings for 19 years. She has a degree in Psychology and an MSc in Social Work. She has also undertaken a Diploma in Occupational Studies and worked as part of therapeutic teams, including The Priory and CAMHS using various therapeutic interventions and models. Sonia also worked as a Social Worker/Inclusion Manager within schools and as part of a Behaviour Improvement Team for the Local

Authorities Educational Psychology Team. Within several of her roles she has set up and delivered training to various professional and agencies. Her recent experience has been as a Manager and a Service Manager in frontline child protection teams where she has successfully supported failing teams through Ofsted inspections.

Sonia brings to the TCES Group a number of transferable skills and extensive knowledge of child

TCES Group employs more than 200 staff, a diverse and talented team whose job roles are wide-ranging and fascinating. Each member of our team makes a valuable contribution to the effectiveness of our schools.

protection, coupled with an understanding of the complexities and difficulties that schools face when safeguarding their pupils and their staff. At the heart of her practice, Sonia maintains a focus on the child being at the centre of all safeguarding matters and will endeavour to support the TCES Group to continue to place our children at the heart of what we do.

Owing to Sonia's extensive experience in working with Care Experienced People, also known as Children In Care or Looked After Children, she will lead on a new TCES Group project on embedding a support project for Children in Care.

Continual improvement of our sites

In line with our philosophy of continual development we are currently concentrating on improvements to our Custom House site, which now houses the majority of our Create Service London staff and pupils.

Our front cover image shows how pupils' artwork has been reproduced and used effectively as fence panels around the playground, providing a colourful and appealing outdoor space. This area will also be further developed next term, when a new blue safety surface, similar to that in Clacton, will be installed. (NWLIS is also to benefit from the new safety

surface on its outside play area next term).

Inside the building, work is currently underway to create a brand new purpose built commercial kitchen. This is being designed for use both by the professional chef to prepare healthy meals for staff and pupils, and also as a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen for pupils.

Meanwhile, the smaller Barking site that has already been redeveloped for use by Create Service will continue to be used primarily as a Therapeutic Hub.

New safety surface

Here's an image of the new safety surface at EFS Clacton, requested by the Student Council. We think it looks great, pity the sky wasn't as blue!



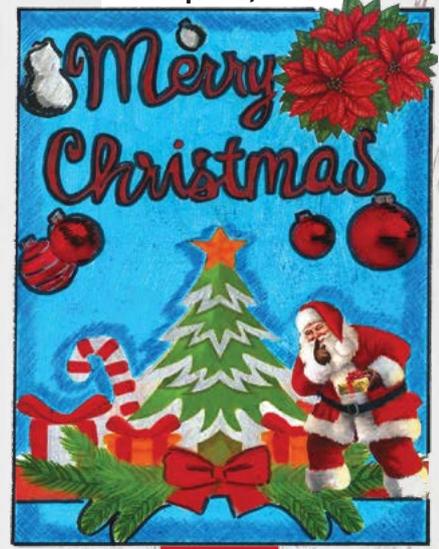
Winning Christmas cards

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!

Charlie, NWLIS



Shaquille, ELIS



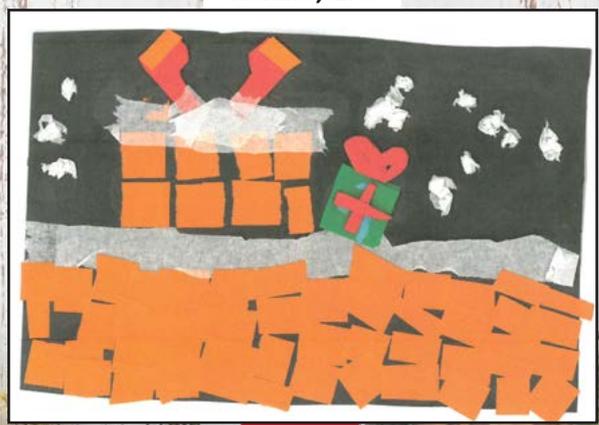
Joshua, Create



Caden, EFS Clacton



Kenzie, EFS



Staff members of the year

Congratulations to the following, who were announced as our staff members of the year at the annual staff Christmas party, following a vote by colleagues at each school or site.

- ELIS**
Joel Augustus
- EFS Witham**
Elaine Renker
- NWLIS**
Michael Davies
- Central Services**
Jane Mackney
- EFS Clacton**
Anne Alexander
- Create School**
Ria Richards
- Create Barking**
Daniel Mascia & Amy Kent (tied)