

TCES Group Bulletin



Spring 2018



Essex Fresh Start Clacton pupil Liam, pictured with HLTA Janine, at their Easter school fete in aid of local dog rescue charity Last Hope Rescue.

**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



Following feedback from our parents and carers on the way we communicate, we're pleased to introduce our first dedicated parents' page in this issue. The page covers information that will be useful to the parents and carers of our pupils. It also contains news from our parent groups, starting with the NWLIS group that has already become an important and integral part of everyday life at the school. We are aware that our new parent and carer groups at ELIS and EFS are working hard to follow suit and we have featured their stories in this issue. If you're a parent or carer and have any comments or suggestions for the content of this page please contact our marketing department: marketing@tces.org.uk.

As 'parent voice' develops to take on a pivotal role within our schools I've been reflecting on how this aspect of school life has changed over the past 19 years. Which brings me to the exciting announcement that TCES Group will be celebrating its 20th year, starting this November. So watch this space to find out how you can become involved in the celebrations.

The building redevelopment at Stratford Marsh is really taking shape now and I was proud to show off our wonderful new facilities in March to a contingent from the Swiss ARES Foundation – autism experts who were keen to learn more about the autism-friendly environment that has been created by GA Architects at the site. Integration of our ELIS SEMH and ASC pupils continues to go from strength to strength and we're confident that this will only get better in this new state-of-the-art building. Pupils will be moving into the new building after the Easter holidays, and once they've had a chance to settle into their new surroundings we'll be

hosting an official launch event on 29 June. We're delighted that Dame Esther Rantzen DBE, founder of Childline, has agreed to open the new building for us.

Our Leadership and Life Skills coaches continue to roll out their motivational work and we're delighted with the impact this is having and the positive culture that is apparent across the Group. On our Young Leaders page you can read more about the work of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and the specialist training our Student Council members are receiving, all in line with our push for a stronger 'pupil voice'.

Finally, let's wish our Y11s and Post 16 pupils the very best of luck in their upcoming GCSEs and A-levels.

Thomas Keaney
Chief Executive and 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 | www.tces.org.uk | [@TCESgroup](https://twitter.com/TCESgroup)





EFS pupil awarded 'Young Sports Personality of the Year'

Clacton Student Council member Liam has been awarded 'Young Sports Personality of the Year' by local charity Inspire Suffolk.

Inspire Suffolk works to support young people by affording them the opportunity to take part in motivational education programmes and sporting activities. Their Gala Award Ceremony, held on March 27, was attended by Liam. All at Clacton spoke highly of Liam's success.



'Let's get Tribal!' Cultural Week activities celebrated at NWLIS

The week commencing 5 March was Cultural Week, with North West London Independent School studying the theme 'Let's get Tribal!' Each class was designated a continent and then researched a tribe from within their continent. Classes investigated various aspects of their tribe including language, traditional practices and customs, clothing, daily living, etc. Pupils also dressed up in costumes associated with their tribe, which they wore for Presentation Day.

Presentation Day was attended by ex-pupil Laquain, who is now attending a further education college, TCES Group Referrals Manager Colleen Hopkins, Parent Group Champion Samia, Deputy Head Teacher Dale Brown and local shopkeeper Sajed – all of whom formed the judging panel with a prize of a tutor group lunch out awarded to the winning 'continent.' The tutor groups

were judged on creativity, evidence of research and group participation.

Said Head Teacher Katrina Medley: "As the Head of school I was very proud to witness and be a part of cultural week. We did ourselves proud. Go NWLIS!!!"

CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney remarked, "Friday's presentation day represented a true understanding of how our community values embody the spirit of inclusivity. The pupils demonstrated an understanding of other cultures both within the local community and trans-globally. Thank you for making my evening and especially so to our Alumni Ambassador Laquain, who was back with us again to judge this event."

The winning tutor group was Miro, from Y8/9, who gained the most points across the three categories, with judges being particularly impressed with the engagement of pupils. Well done Miro!

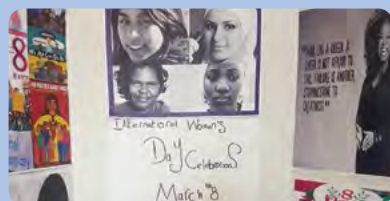


TCES Group @TCESgroup Mar 14
TCES Group are featured in the latest edition of @AutismEye's magazine. You can view the articles below or alternatively subscribe to the magazine for free by clicking on the link: www.autismeye.com/subscribe/ #autismmedchat #ukedchat #Autism

TCES Group @TCESgroup Mar 14
It's #onesie day at Essex Fresh Start Clacton, with staff (photographed below) all ready to greet pupils this morning. Student councillors have chosen to raise funds for local dog rescue charity @lastshoepanimale #charity #fundraiser



TCES Group @TCESgroup Mar 9
North West London Independent School have a #internationalwomensday2018 display in the main entrance to the school - pupils spent time in recent weeks gathering info for the display #empowerment #autismmedchat



TCES Group @TCESgroup Mar 2
Read TCES Group's latest #esafety newsletter here. This month we discuss the positives to #online technology #internetsafety #safer schools <http://www.tces.org.uk/parents-carers/e-safety/e-safety-newsletters/>

In the news

Sport Relief activities at EFS

17-23 March was Sport Relief week, and proactive pupils at Essex Fresh Start participated in numerous events taking place throughout the week.

Sport Relief is a biennial charity event from Comic Relief which raises money to help vulnerable people in both the UK and abroad.

Y10/11 pupils in Witham completed a mountain bike trail at the Olympic Park in Hadleigh with TA Annette managing to keep up with the pupils, despite not having ridden a bike for 30 years! Adapted from crushed sandstone, the Olympic mountain bike trail is 5km long and was designed to test the best athletes in the world.

It consists of almost 1.7km of climb per lap and has a number of sharp technical ascents and descents.

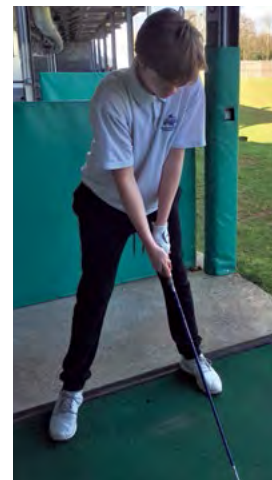
The course is split into three trails: blue, red and black, with blue being the easiest and black being the most difficult. Pupils collectively completed all the trails in just over an hour with EFS estimating that they will have raised around £75 for Sport Relief from this activity alone.

Witham's Y10 golfing pro Jamie, pictured at Colchester Golf Club, set himself a Sport Relief challenge – to hit 10,000 yards with 100 golf balls. Jamie frequently attends golf sessions with his grandad and the practice has

certainly paid off: he smashed his target by scoring 6,205 yards after 50 balls, reaching 11,665 by the time he got to the 100th ball! In total,

Jamie raised £50 for Sport Relief and was incredibly happy with his efforts.

Other sporting activities at Witham included, at the request of the School Council, a table tennis tournament to launch the purchase of the recently acquired table tennis equipment. Pupils Tom and George bravely volunteered to give boxing coaching to Witham's primary pupils. Non-sporting activities saw the entire school selling cakes and home-made pizza to raise money for the charity. The week was rounded off at Witham with a Mufti (non-uniform) day.



Post 16 offer

TCES Group Post 16 pathways offer a personalised specialist education for students aged 16+ with SEMH or ASC plus co-morbid needs.

The pathways, curriculum and its programmes guarantee that learners undertake relevant qualifications together with short course accreditations that give them the greatest chance of successful

employment and skills for life; so ensure they will be non-NEET.

For more information please see our new leaflet that can be found at: www.tces.org.uk/leaflets-brochures-for-tces-group/

Teaching Talent now tutoring pupils 'in transition'

An exciting opportunity has arisen for Teaching Talent to provide tutoring for pupils in transition. Pupils in transition are those who have a statement and EHCP, who are not currently in education and are awaiting a school placement. Teaching Talent already provides one-to-one tutoring to LAC and SEND pupils for some London boroughs. They are now looking to expand this service across all London boroughs. Senior Recruitment

Consultant Maria Takkou is due to meet with the Principal Officer for Alternative Education Commissioning Services in April with regards to providing one-to-one tutoring for pupils in transition throughout Essex. The team at Teaching Talent will be rolling out the one-to-one tutoring service for pupils in transition to all local authorities. For more information, please email: info@teachingtalent.co.uk



Young Leaders

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Conference

Following the success of the first TCES Group Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Conference last November (see our Winter bulletin 2017 for more details) and the pupils' request to hold these once each term, the spring conference took place on 20 March. Once again, Anti-Bullying Ambassadors from across the Group gathered to discuss current issues surrounding bullying in their schools and to strategise as a whole team. A key activity for this one-day workshop was to begin work on the creation of a TCES Group Anti-Bullying Charter.

Some suggestions put forward during the day included:

- ◆ Twice weekly 15 minute drop in sessions led by the Ambassadors. These are already working well at EFS Clacton, with Ambassadors now able to give pupils support throughout the week.
- ◆ EFS Clacton also suggested that a positive comment box (myCloud/kindness tree) would give pupils an opportunity to say positive things about one another. This could be added to the Friday celebration assemblies.

"It was really good. I didn't realise how important this role is." Nicky, Y11, NWLIS

- ◆ A bully box for pupils to bring any concerns around bullying to the attention of the Ambassadors/ staff. The Ambassadors take responsibility for checking the box on a daily basis and supporting pupils with their concerns, with guidance from staff.



Corinne Hyman, Cross Company Pupil Voice Champion, who organised the conference said, "Pupils engaged and participated extremely well and truly represented their schools in the best way possible. It was a pleasure to see such passion from our pupils on such an important topic."

"We need to make a change! We shouldn't be affected by their badness; we should affect them with our goodness" Chase, Y4, EFS Witham

CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said, "Thank you to pupils and staff alike for showing us the way forward. We gave you, our pupils, a voice and look at how positively you are using it to make real change. You are working together to make our schools and Create Service safe spaces for all our pupils, even the most vulnerable. I for one am very proud of the work you do - it is true that 'Together We're Better.'"

Blue Circle training for Student Council members

Training specific to their roles was provided for every Student Council President, Vice President and Treasurer from across the TCES Group in December. Pupils worked in groups characterised by their roles and enjoyed the training as well as learning a lot from it. Each group was given the task of organising a party, considering what would need to be done and presenting on the outcomes. Although they all admitted to being scared at first, each pupil managed to present their ideas very well.

You said, we did

Previously the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors requested their own specially designed notepad, for them to record any bullying incidents that they may come across, in an effort to support staff in clamping down on bullying and enforcing a zero-tolerance attitude. These A6 notepads were handed out at the conference and pupils began to use them immediately to take notes.





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.

John Dunning, *Consultant - Strategic Partnerships*



Since January 2018, Strategic Partnerships Consultant John Dunning has managed the Business Development Team and Marketing activities for TCES Group. John is also the Group lead for all external relations and partnerships with Local Authorities.

John has many years' experience working as a commissioner for Local Authorities, as well as the NHS, spending the majority of his career negotiating contracts with the private and commercial sectors. John originally trained as a social worker over 20 years ago, progressing into strategic roles and then as a joint commissioner of children's services in local government and the NHS. The past six years have seen John working as a Consultant/Interim Manager for different Local Authorities and the NHS, with senior positions held in the London region.

Says John: "This is a completely new and exciting direction for me with the opportunity to work for a social enterprise uniquely placed in the commercial independent school sector, which has value base not seen elsewhere in the sector.

"TCES Group is an energetic and innovative company that is on an exciting journey, especially with some market leading innovations. In the current climate the sustainability of TCES Group over the past 20 years is especially relevant as many similar small organisations and rivals have changed in this time."

Since joining the organisation in January, John's priorities have focused on updating TCES Group's referral and admissions procedures, whilst leading the newly expanded Business Development Team. Also high on his agenda is developing the Create Service and increasing referrals among a wider group of Local Authority commissioners.

John is an avid cricket fan and sings in a male barbershop quartet called Cabin Crew.

Jackie Lindeck *Head of Inclusion & Clinical Services*



We are delighted to welcome Jackie Lindeck to TCES Group as our new Head of Inclusion & Clinical Services. Jackie is supporting Peter Finn by leading on the provision of creative arts therapies across the Group. She is also co-leading our Behaviour Support Leads initiative to ensure that a nurturing, empathetic and sophisticated clinical understanding of communication through behaviour is at the heart of the support we provide for our pupils in all areas of inclusion and clinical services.

Jackie joins us from a role as Head of Therapy at TBAP Multi-Academy Trust, where she developed a model of therapy to meet the needs of young people across Alternative Provision Schools in London and Cambridgeshire.

She qualified as a Music Therapist in 2000. Since then she has worked extensively as a clinician, a supervisor, a facilitator and a manager across a variety of health, education and charitable settings.

Originally, Jackie specialised in working with people with Acquired Brain Injury and their families at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability. Using music as part of a rehabilitation programme, both to improve functional skills such as language, attention and motor skills and to provide opportunities for emotional expression, she experienced first-hand how music can transform lives.

Jackie also worked in partnership with Triangle Consulting to publish

the Music Therapy Outcome Star; now widely used in music therapy services across the UK. Throughout her career Jackie has taught on a variety of postgraduate programmes for therapists and psychologists and has work published in books and journals.

Jackie is passionate about supporting children, young people and their families to reach their full potential and continues to love music, playing both piano and fiddle recreationally.



LGBT history month

LGBT History month display competition

1st place:
Essex Fresh Start,
Witham

February's LGBT History month was celebrated for the second time at TCES Group, providing a learning opportunity for everyone around some difficult issues. 2018 is a special year, marking the 40th anniversary of the rainbow flag, now recognised world-wide and representing so much to so many people.

The official theme for LGBT History month 2018 was geography – mapping the world. Each TCES Group school or service was encouraged to take part in a display competition as well as holding focussed pupil-led assemblies and group process discussions around LGBT issues, in particular exploring what it means to be LGBT in one of our schools.

Competition judges were delighted by the exceptional submissions and after much deliberation awarded:

1st place: Essex Fresh Start, Witham

2nd place: Essex Fresh Start, Clacton

3rd place: East London Independent School

Stakeholder Engagement Manager, Hollie Riley who ran the competition said: "The messages on the work that pupils produced in every school completely match our community ethos of respect for all, as well as real true inclusion for everyone!"

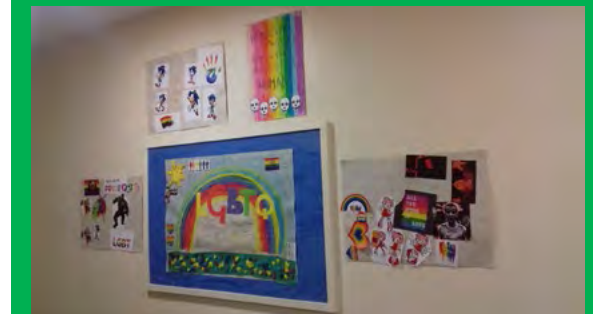
Winners received cash to spend on additional resources, such as books for library/DEAR, PHSE resources or new games for lunchtime clubs.



2nd place:
Essex Fresh Start,
Clacton



3rd place: East
London Independent
School



Parent page

Welcome to the first parent page. Although we hope that you enjoy reading the news throughout the bulletin, this page has news specifically for you, our valued parents and carers. 'Parent Voice' is extremely important to us in our inclusive schools and we've been really pleased with the high level of involvement we're now experiencing in some of our schools' active parent groups.

Christmas lunch

There was a full house at NWLIS on 20 December for the Christmas lunch, which was completely organised by their parents group. The group was given a budget, out of which they bought Christmas trees, pupil presents, a Santa costume, etc. On the day they decorated and set up the hall and helped to serve the lunch.

To add to the excitement, in the middle of the party Ealing Council surprised everyone by arriving to inspect the school's compliance with food hygiene law requirements. Despite the chaos of the Christmas lunch everything was



NWLIS parents group with Miss Medley

found to be compliant and the school scored a hygiene rating of 4. Well done all.

Parents evening

Another demonstration of the high level of engagement with parents at NWLIS was the attendance at a recent parents evening. Thomas Keaney, who happened to be at NWLIS at the time was bowled over when he glanced into the hall: "What I saw was extraordinary in its ordinariness. About 18 parents were sitting in our hall at individual tables

talking to our teachers about their children's education. It was exactly the same as the parents evening I had attended for one of my own children at their mainstream school a few evenings earlier.

"It really hit me emotionally that I had spent years looking for something unique to stir the parents of our SEMH pupils into joining

us in a partnership around their education, while the answer lay before my very eyes - in the simple philosophy of empowerment and that 'together we're better.' Putting the Parents Voice and participation at the centre of everything we do is providing incredible results that we're eager to build on across the Group."

Parent/Carer Communications Survey

In January we sent you our first ever Parent/Carer Communications Survey and were delighted to receive a good number of responses, both via the online link and by post. So a big thank you to all of you who responded!

Of the responses we received:

- 84% were satisfied with the amount of communication they receive
- 95% read the hard copy bulletins we send by post
- 81% of these parents/carers find the content useful or informative
- 81% of parents read the postal copy of the E-Safety newsletter
- 68% of these find the content informative
- 80% of you visit our website, with checking term dates

and school-related information being the most popular reasons to log on

We were keen to learn more about your social media habits as well to see whether you'd be interested in following us for up to date news - we currently use Twitter and LinkedIn. However, we discovered that out of the respondent group only 18% use Twitter. Facebook would appear to be your online social media platform of choice: 75% stating that they have a Facebook account.

By gathering a clear snapshot of preferences, thoughts and comments from you, we can begin to identify how well we are communicating, determining what we are doing well and what we can improve upon. We will endeavour to keep you updated with all improvements that are in the pipeline. Watch this space!



Earn book vouchers for your child

Our DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) initiative is already popular in our schools and we'd love to extend this experience to our pupils' homes by encouraging you to read books with your child. To help you get started we're offering a £5 book voucher for every 10 books you share with them. Depending on their age and/or ability this might be by reading to them, by listening to them read to you or by both reading the same book then discussing what you've read.


Pupil's name		
DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)		
Book name:	Book name:	Book name:
Parent's signature:	Parent's signature:	Parent's signature:
Date read:	Date read:	Date read:
Book name:	Book name:	Book name:
Parent's signature:	Parent's signature:	Parent's signature:
Date read:	Date read:	Date read:


Read 10 books with your child and receive a £5 book voucher to purchase a book of their choice

To qualify for the £5 voucher, you will need to read 10 books, either by:

- reading to your child
- listening to your child reading to you
- both reading the same book then sharing a discussion about what you've read

DEAR (Drop Everything and Read)





Read 10 books with your child and receive a **£5 book voucher** to purchase a book of their choice

To qualify for the £5 voucher, you will need to read 10 books, either by:

- reading to your child
- listening to your child reading to you
- both reading the same book then sharing a discussion about what you've read

If you haven't yet been given a DEAR stamp card by your school or service please do request one. Each card has 10 spaces on the reverse for you to sign on completion of each book. Once you reach 10, just take the card into school to claim your £5 book voucher. Happy reading!

ELIS Parent Council launched!

ELIS was very proud to welcome a large group of their parents and carers who visited the brand new Stratford Marsh school site just before the Easter holiday.

Many of the group signed up to join the newly formed Parent Council, the first of its kind at ELIS, which will provide much needed support for parents and carers as well as being an integral part of how the school will run in the future. The Parent Council will be instrumental in planning events, interviewing staff and improving the school resources and curriculum and will also provide new parents with a much-needed support network, just as the Student Council does for new pupils. The first Parent Council meeting is taking place in Stratford Marsh on Thursday 19 April. If you are a parent or carer of an ELIS pupil and would like to attend, please contact the school directly or Hollie Riley at Central Services.



EFS Parent Group

EFS Witham is now also running half-termly parent groups in order to encourage more parents and carers to become involved in their children's school and so far this is proving successful.

This began during the last summer holiday, when parents and siblings were invited into the school for a one day holiday club. Attendees enjoyed music and art workshops and forest school.

The Autumn Term bake off competition was held for both pupils and parents, then parents were invited into the school for the McMillan coffee morning where they were able to buy cakes and share lunch with pupils and staff.

Parents were invited to join the school for a celebration assembly and a talent show during the Spring Term, after which pupils, parents and staff all had lunch together. There was also a special E-safety workshop held this term for parents, who then joined pupils for a celebration assembly and lunch.

How to get involved

If you're interested in joining the Parent Council at your child's school or service please contact the school's administrator or Hollie Riley, our Stakeholder Engagement Manager on hollie.riley@tces.org.uk or 020 8543 7878.



Student Council members visit local charity, Acton Homeless Concern

22 February saw two members of North West London Independent School's Student Council - Adam (Vice President) and Diaz (Charity/Community Ambassador) - visit Acton Homeless Concern.

Acton Homeless Concern is a charity providing advice and support for the homeless and other disadvantaged groups. They run two drop-in centres at the Damien Centre and Emmaus House in Acton. For more information, please visit:

www.actonhomelessconcern.org

The pupils met with centre manager Ian Breen and were given a tour of the shelter. Ian explained that the shelter can receive up to 220 people a day for lunch, which is catered for by a full-time chef. The shelter has five to six volunteer workers each day. Food, water, clothing, toiletries etc. are all provided by local charities, fundraisers and the local community.

The picture (right) represents the store room that holds the donated food. Said Ian, "If we didn't get any more supplies, by Easter this would all be gone. We rely solely on the donations of others." Ian went on to explain that 2,000 people are counted on Ealing's streets; however this does not take into consideration 'sofa surfers,' squatters and people hiding away. The number from this accumulates to around 8,000 homeless people in Ealing alone.

After the tour the pupils sat down with Ian and asked questions. Diaz enquired, "Is it OK to bring dog food and do people bring dogs?" Ian explained that he would love to receive dog food and that people do regularly bring dogs.

Adam asked, "Would you accept military based meals for the people coming here?" Ian expressed that all food, if in date, is welcome and is hugely appreciated.

Both Adam and Diaz reflected on how sad it is, especially in cold weather, for people to live on the streets. North West London Independent School will build upon the positive relationship forged with the charity and visit again with other Student Council members and plan ahead for their Bags for the Homeless project. More details on this to follow.



New 'Welcome Film' for NWLIS

TCES Group commenced production of the forthcoming 'Welcome Films' at North West London Independent School on 9 March, with further filming to be scheduled for our other schools in the near future.

The films will provide an introduction to the school and will be shown to prospective pupils and parents, giving them an idea of what life as a pupil at each individual school is like.

Featured in the North West London Independent School film is an introduction by Head Teacher Katrina Medley, an interview with three Parent Group members, who discussed the progress their children had made whilst at NWLIS, a

thoughtful and very knowledgeable tour of the school by Student Council member Diaz and interview with pupils Diaz and Skye, who confidently answered questions in front of the camera.

The film is available to view on the NWLIS page of our website plus TCES Group's Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn pages.



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



ELIS pupil performs motivational verse to acclaim

ELIS pupil Maison wrote and performed his rap song, Kite, in front of fellow pupils and staff during a Group Process assembly at school. This is an incredible achievement for any pupil, and especially so for Maison. He performed with incredible confidence, with pupils giving him a standing ovation and not a dry eye among the applauding staff.

Kite, by Maison

I wanna be free, like a kite in flight, I wanna live easy, take the breeze across the many seas I might! Travel the world, see the sights and stop to gaze upon the stars at night. That's the life... that I wish to lead verses complex thoughts that I need to heed to aim my frame to succeed in this game of mine. Life on the line, no stop signs on the road to rhyme while I'm in my prime with a path to pave, a soul to save, I'll keep on digging til' I'm in my grave.

At least that's the plan, the follow through is what'll make'th man, thus here I am... caught in between, like an extra in my own scene, my star role, no roll-call, do I climb the wall or freefall? Because either way will have price to pay, too easy to be led astray by emotions unable to cast away and then its overcast today, trapped in my mind like a castaway.

Wait... let me speak for a minute, my kind of pain, have ya'll ever been in it? Feeling the need to prepare every conversation, possible combination, in case of potential complications or to never be proud of your quirks, ashamed of your work... and even now I've re-wrote this, erased this, replaced this, paused, watching the bar too cautious to place this. That is until I think of the faces, all the fears that you've conquered despite all the tears that you've tasted it's motivating, liberating... I'm tired of running but in too much of a rush to be waiting because...

I wanna be free, like a kite in flight, I wanna live easy, take the breeze across the many seas I might! Travel the world, see the sights and stop to gaze upon the stars at night. I just wish to do as I do, through thick and thin, the way I see it... to simply persist is a win.

ELIS pupils enjoy premieriership rugby match

Three ELIS pupils had the unique opportunity to witness first hand a top Premiership rugby match between keen London rivals, Saracens and Harlequins, on 24 March. The match is normally played at Wembley but this year was switched to the London Stadium in Stratford and attracted a sell-out crowd. Our pupils were able to sample the pre-match atmosphere and enjoy a thrilling game in which Saracens eventually ran out of winners, 24 points to 11. Many thanks to Mr Keaney for supplying the tickets and to Mr Szostak and Mr Green for organising the trip and accompanying the pupils.



Stratford Marsh attracts international visitors

In March the ARES Foundation, based in Canton Ticino, Switzerland, came to view the low-arousal, autism-friendly site and to learn more about TCES Group's unique work in successfully

integrating pupils with SEMH and ASC. GA Architects were also present to provide their expertise on building schools specifically for ASC pupils.



Barclays has supported this project from the start. Early in March Chris Lacey, Barclays Relationship Director, also visited and toured the school.

Find out more: gareth.jones@tces.org.uk

Clacton pupils enter BBC Radio 2 500 Words short story competition

Four KS3 Essex Fresh Start Clacton pupils have been entered into the BBC Radio 2 500 Words short story competition. Championed by Chris Evans, entrants can write their own story on any subject in 500 words or less. The winning story will be read live on air by a superstar celebrity. Good luck to our four entrants!



Clacton pupils read 'The Goldfish Boy'

Continuing in a literary theme, EFS Clacton pupils have been reading the 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson. The story is centred around twelve-year-old Matthew who has OCD and spends most of his time trapped in his bedroom. Matthew turns detective when he is the last person to see a neighbour's toddler before he goes missing. The pupils made these wonderful displays, pictured, which we then featured on our Twitter feed. We tagged the book's author, Lisa Thompson, who then 'liked' our post, commenting "This

is simply wonderful. Thank you for sharing 😊"



Clacton Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

At Essex Fresh Start School in Clacton, the anti-bullying ambassadors requested that each class come up with a pledge. Our Upper Nurture Group have worked hard to produce this striking and thought-provoking quote, that they beautifully transformed into this stunning mural.



Witham pupils have poems published in Rhymecraft

Two Witham pupils have had their poems published in 'Rhymecraft,' a book of poems written exclusively by primary-aged school children. You can read ten-year-old Caleb and 11-year-old George's poems below. We think you'll agree they've both made a fantastic effort – well done boys!

The Sea

The sea so smooth,
Like a daisy in bloom,
Sounds like thunder in
the sky,
So light like a pillow,
So sweet like a candy,
So sour like a lemon,
So yellow like the sun,
So bright like light,
As nice as mice,
As fast as lightning,
As sharp as a knife,
As hard as a rock,
As soft as a duster.

By George

Animals having a tea party

The panda, the polar bear, the turtle
and the bee
Live in a forest tree
Every day they have tea
On Thursday the bee asked
"Do panda bears eat green pears?"
Panda put down his tea and stares
Turtle and polar bear are baking cakes
The cupcakes were
Vanilla strawberry and chocolate
Turtle falls on his back, his shell is as
hard as a rock
When he got up, the cupcakes were
done
They then went to the tea party and
they had so much fun.

By Caleb

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Chelmsford pupils make a splash with colourful umbrella

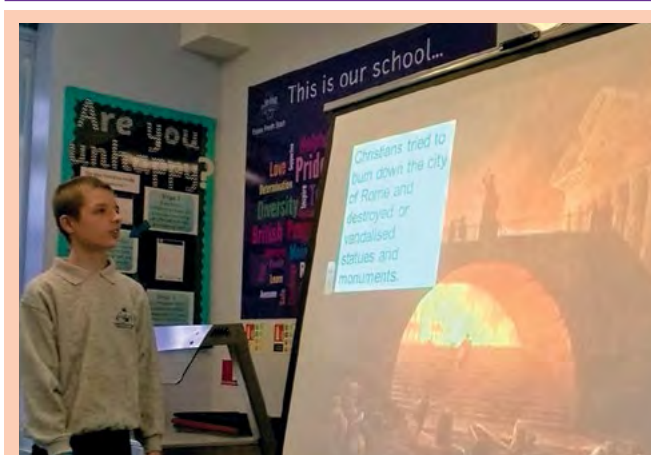
Chelmsford Hub pupils got creative by constructing their own rainbow-coloured umbrella during February's LGBT month.

Taking pride of place at the Hub, the umbrella has been fixed to the wall for all to see. It was lovingly created by four pupils, and despite the sometimes arduous process of creating the umbrella the pupils are rightly proud of their work!



Gastronomic treats served up for Cultural Week

An array of European delicacies were enjoyed by six Chelmsford Hub pupils during March's Cultural Week celebrations. With particular focus on European foods, the pupils tucked into a petit dejeuner of croissants, pains au chocolat and brioche, while lunch was distinctly Italian themed with pizza and pasta.



Meanwhile, over at Clacton Y10 ASC representative Callum presented a whole school assembly during Cultural Week about Roman history.

Clacton raises money for local dog-rescue charity

EFS Clacton pupils have raised a total of £363 for local dog rescue charity, Last Hope Rescue. Last Hope Rescue is a volunteer-run charity that rescues dogs that have been abandoned or neglected. Pupils and staff hosted a school fete, with a superb Easter goody raffle, as pictured on our front cover, with pupil Liam contributing 10 Easter eggs to the raffle! A huge thank you goes to Janine, Clacton's HLTA who co-ordinated the event. Clacton also held a bric-a-brac stall at the front of the school with funds once more going to Last Hope Rescue. Said Assistant Head Teacher Elainor Lloyd, "Staff and pupils alike contributed a huge amount of items to put up for sale. Truly a whole school effort which we are all very proud of!"



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Lambing at Lambourne!

KS2 and KS3 pupils based at our Create Service Therapeutic Hub in Barking are now engaging in a rural studies programme as their vocational lesson. And it's been a busy time at Lambourne End Centre for Outdoor Learning, where they've been studying. Among the activities for this term they were delighted to be able to watch spring lambs being born and enjoyed horse husbandry lessons. They also learned how to build and light a fire and how to use it to cook popcorn and bake bread.

In the end-of-term report for one pupil, staff at Lambourne End

described him as having an excellent attitude to work, working well with others, rarely complaining about any task and always coming in with a smile on his face. Create Service staff are very proud of this achievement! Lambourne End uses a unique blend of adventure, farm and environmental activities to inspire pupils to make a positive contribution to their lives and communities. In a safe, yet alternative environment learners are encouraged to have fun learning and to experience a sense of achievement. The centre provides an ideal fit with the community values that are so

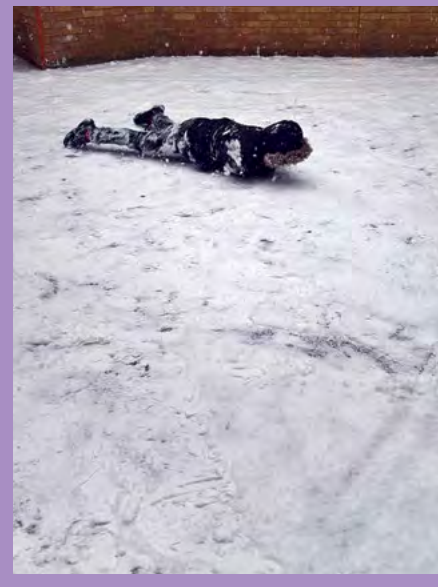
important at TCES Group, as it's core values are:

- promoting learning for all
- belief in people's potential
- inclusivity
- respect for people and the environment



Enjoying the snow at Barking

Pupils at the Barking Therapeutic Hub really enjoyed playing in the playground on a snowy winter day in February.



Success at Romford

Staff at Create Service London's Romford Therapeutic Hub are also very proud of the successful integration of one of their pupils.

When Abdul (not his real name) first joined the Create Service four months ago he'd been unable to leave his house for over seven months because of social anxiety. But due to the skill and understanding of his dedicated tutor, within two months Abdul was

enjoying a weekly visit to the park. This was soon followed by shopping trips to buy food.

In his third month with the Create Service Abdul started coming in to the Hub to learn. He now attends every day and has expressed how happy he is to be there engaging with his fellow pupils and staff. We love a great success story like this at TCES Group!

Find out more: 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

Positive behaviour support

TCES Group promotes the safety and high behavioural expectations of all pupils. We aim to achieve this through a rigorous and consistent strengths-based approach to positive personal presentation, social skills and adjustment to a formal learning environment using daily positive praise and, more formally, by awarding points, certificates and rewards in our weekly celebration assemblies. Our student councils have helped us to understand that behaviour is transformed through an approach that uses consistent praise and encouragement, and rewards to support our pupils to achieve their self-defined goals towards independence in their life beyond school.

We have reviewed our behaviour support systems in the current academic year and developed a behaviour support toolkit for all classroom staff and school leaders to orientate and define the resources available for behaviour support at each stage of the process.

Visitors to our schools and sites can see tangible evidence of our positive behaviour support in each classroom, where site relevant 'wordles', classroom high fives and behaviour boards are proudly displayed. Backing this up is a system of timetable lessons, rewards and conversations, a behaviour

toolkit, IEBP/CAN Plans and three Behaviour change goals.

To deliver this we have appointed 24 members of staff across the Group as our Behaviour Support Leads (BSL), ensuring that we have at least two behaviour support leaders at each site. We believe that it is only through a consistent calm, compassionate and assertive reinforcement of outstanding behaviour across each school or service that we can achieve success.

Every BSL is a fully trained MAPA Instructor who is responsible for the delivery of MAPA training to all staff at their site. Working closely with Inclusion Managers and the company's Senior Leadership Team they assume the role of safety supervisor and site lead for pupil safety, behaviour and welfare, and contribute to the design and delivery of cross-company training on social skills, LIFE skills, behaviour for learning training, as well as the other elements of the behaviour support system.



Peter Finn, Director of Inclusion and Clinical Services

Life without Labels: TCES Group school community group process

'The greatest gift we can give our pupils is the ability to self-reflect'

TCES Group has embarked on a radical approach to whole-school inclusion through delivery of twice-weekly 'group process' meetings in every school and site. Group process is designed on principles of empowerment and has at its centre a radical approach to the values of real inclusion and empowerment for our pupils. Bringing together our pupils and inviting them to reflect on their experience of difference in themselves and others has delivered moving and surprising results.

Many of our pupils describe their experience of a TCES Group school as being 'like a family' and we have been inspired by the courage, integrity and directness which they have brought to group process. Here, pupils have discussed gender

differences, homophobia, issues of race and class and, especially, issues of disability and rejection. Many of our pupils have experienced multiple school placement rejections in the past and they have described in detail how they have internalised these experiences and concluded that they do not and cannot 'belong' in any social institution. It is imperative that we work with the internalised damaging outcomes of these rejections and support our pupils to redefine and rebuild a personal identity that is strengths-based and supports their self-esteem and well-being in the long term.

With the correct facilitation we have been able to support pupils to learn from each other. Our group process

meetings instil hope, and develop in all pupils an understanding of the universal human experiences of isolation, rejection and exclusion which are understood and transformed into a major recommitment to engage within their school community. Pupils on our school councils have especially fed back that they value greatly the group process meetings.

We are currently engaging with research teams to explore further the impact of group process as a method of building healthy whole school communities and accelerating social skills development for all. We look forward to bringing you further news of the exciting developments in this central area of our practice.

Find out more: peter.finn@tces.org.uk



Catherine Bullen Foundation



Friday 19 January was TCES Group's annual Catherine Bullen Foundation day when pupils and staff across the group enjoyed taking part in various fundraising activities and learning more about our adopted International charity. The day's activities also support our community values and teach our pupils about the value of helping those less fortunate than themselves.

Create Barking

When Create Service pupil George from the Barking Therapeutic Hub was inspired to develop a sponsored treasure hunt fund-raiser for the Catherine Bullen Foundation, staff worked with him to cultivate his idea into an activity that all pupils would enjoy. Working as a team, nine pupils searched for clues on window panes and in frozen cups of ice, with Hub

lead Dan miming letters for clues. Our sleuth detectives led the way and showed how well they could work together!

The prize at the end was a cake, shared by all the pupils after lunch. Almost £50 was raised and George was voted in as an event-planner on the Student Council in recognition of his hard work and ability in organising the treasure hunt.



Josh and Dan talking about clues frozen in cups of ice



Josh, George and Kyler discussing clues frozen in ice

The Catherine Bullen Foundation works with local communities in rural Namibia to help them build and nurture a new life through relieving poverty, illness and distress. To see some of the great work of the Foundation since it was set up in 2002 please visit: www.namibia-aid.org.uk

It is currently collecting funds for a 'Mattress Matters Appeal', aiming to purchase 200 new mattresses for the children at the Omuhaturua Primary School Hostel.

ELIS

Pupils and staff at ELIS celebrated Catherine Bullen Foundation day on 2 February by wearing yellow non-uniform and donating £1 each for doing so.



NWLIS raised £107.44 by holding a cake and home-made card sale outside the school's main entrance, as well as raising funds through a non-uniform and wear yellow day. One pupil, Michael, used an animation programme to create a sunflower, then printed it onto the front of his cards.



EFS Witham

EFS Witham's Catherine Bullen Foundation fund raising activities – a cake sale and non-uniform day - resulted in a donation to the charity of £89.73.



Kiran and Tim also organised a tombola, which involved maths and economics learning. They discussed how much to spend on the prizes that they bought from Superdrug and Poundland, how much to charge per ticket and considered different age groups and how to make sure the tombola was fair, so that young pupils stood a good chance of winning. On the day they prepared the stall and Kiran used his photoshop skills to do the publicity. About the stall Kiran said "it was the most exciting thing I have ever done." The other pupils were also excited as they had not heard of a tombola before.

