



TCES Group Bulletin

Summer 2018



Supported Pride in July



Dame Esther Rantzen officially opened the redeveloped school building at ELIS (p3)

**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



TEACHING TALENT
Education Recruitment Specialists

CEO welcome



This has been a very special term, especially for our East London Independent School (ELIS). So we're not apologising for ELIS being given a lot of space in this issue. Of course, it doesn't mean that there hasn't been a lot going on elsewhere in the group as you'll see on the following pages. The summer term is always a busy one and includes several of our annual foundation events, including our Celebration Day and football tournament.

So, what's been going on at ELIS? Regular readers will know that we've invested heavily in redeveloping the old church on the site into a state-of-the-art

building, designed to be a low-arousal and autism-friendly environment for our pupils. This work was completed during the Easter holidays and staff and pupils were able to move in on their return in April. To allow everyone time to settle in we waited until the end of June to officially open the new building and were excited when Dame Esther Rantzen DBE agreed to open it for us. You can read all about this on page 3.

We were delighted that, in June, ELIS achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark. This was closely followed by the award of the Association for Physical Education Quality Mark in mid July. Congratulations to the school staff, who have worked very hard to achieve both awards. Towards the end of term ELIS was inspected by Ofsted and, although we don't expect the fully Quality Assured final report before September, we were pleased to hear from the inspectors that the result, under the new Common Inspection Framework, was 'positive and reassuring'. My thanks for this go, not only to the ELIS staff team, pupils and parents, but also to staff across the group who supported us during this time.

Our parent councils have continued to grow this term and we've been pleased to hear that our London schools in particular have experienced an increase in attendance at parents' evenings. We are all aware that parents and carers

who engage in their children's education ensure better educational outcomes for their children.

I'm very excited that Create Service is now successfully integrating pupils into our schools, with the first three from Create London moving on to ELIS in September. This is a very positive milestone for the service.

The end of the summer term is when we start to hold graduation ceremonies for our Y11 and Y12 pupils. I have found both the ELIS and NWLIS graduations truly inspiring and am so proud of what these pupils have achieved and of the staff teams who have worked tirelessly to help them do this. I now look forward to the EFS and Create graduations in September.

Next term will see a new foundation event, Leadership Week, and the start of our 20th anniversary celebrations. We're planning an exciting programme of activities to celebrate this milestone across the group, leading up to our actual 20th birthday in November 2019.

In the meantime I'd like to wish everyone a wonderful summer, and for those of you who will have a well-deserved break, relax and enjoy!

Thomas Keaney, Chief Executive and Schools' Proprietor @TCESgroupCEO

02 CEO welcome	08 Celebration Day
03 In the news: Official opening of ELIS	10 East London Independent School (ELIS)
04 In the news: ELIS achieves IQM Award	12 Essex Fresh Start Independent School (EFS) and Create Service Essex
05 In the news: NWLIS graduation; Clinical Corner	14 North West London Independent School (NWLIS)
06 Inter-school football tournament	15 Create Service London
07 Parent page	16 Childline fundraiser

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 Service London (*Barking and 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](https://www.instagram.com/TCESgroup)





Official opening of ELIS by Dame Esther Rantzen DBE

ELIS' newly extended custom-built school building was officially opened by Dame Esther Rantzen DBE on Friday 29 June. The respected TV presenter and journalist was joined by pupils, parents, staff and special guests on a lovely sunny afternoon.

During the event, Dame Esther Rantzen and other guests toured the refurbished church building, dating back to 1775, which now boasts six new classrooms, as well as a double art room and state-of-the-art classrooms for science, ICT and food technology. There is also a new school hall, two sensory rooms and an excellent outside space. To accommodate it all, the original single storey church building has been converted to two storeys, retaining all the existing windows that now cast light both upstairs and downstairs.

The school's specially designed low-arousal, autism-friendly environment suits all pupils, regardless of their individual needs. The £1.5m redevelopment means that ELIS now has capacity to almost double its intake from 38 to 70.

Dame Esther Rantzen said, "It was a privilege to open this remarkable school building and see the amazing new spaces that have been created to support pupils



with special education needs. This building represents the school's commitment to integration and their inclusive approach means that more young people in East London will be educated locally and get the support they need. I'm sure staff and pupils will enjoy and benefit greatly from their new facilities."

Thomas Keaney, CEO and Schools' Proprietor, said, "By converting this church, we've shown what can be achieved when you remove labels and dare to be ambitious. The new school building complements our unique and innovative approach to education. It will enable us to support more young people with a range of complex needs.

"Our inspiring new school building will enable us to seamlessly bring together pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs or an autism spectrum condition and ensure that they can achieve the very best in life."

A short video, showing highlights of the opening event can be found at: www.tces.org.uk

TCES Group @TCESgroup Jul 5
EFS Clacton bid a sad farewell to the Y11s who are moving on to their next adventure at college. Their final assembly was full to capacity with staff & pupils present wishing them good luck. Pupil Ryan kindly made personalised key rings for staff as his way of thanking them.

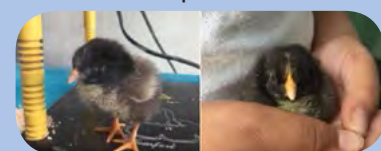


TCES Group @TCESgroup Jul 4
Many thanks to @Newham_NDP for running the fabulous history quiz at East London Independent School's opening last week. Attendees were keen to learn how the former church (now redeveloped into our school at Stratford Marsh) was founded.



TCES Group @TCESgroup Jun 27
It's always nice for us to hear what past pupils are up to, and Essex Fresh Start School, #Clacton are no exception! Josh popped by to let us know how successful his 1st year at Suffolk One College has been, while Emi has passed her driving test and is now a fork-lift driver.

RT Api:Culture @apiculturalLdn Jun 19
@TCESGroup pupils successfully hatched their Wyandotte chicken eggs today. Pupils became proud parents and are learning about responsibility and animal developmental needs.



School life without labels

TCES Group exhibited at the Autism Show for the fifth time, giving staff the opportunity to meet with numerous visitors with an interest in finding out more about autism.

This year Thomas Keaney also delivered a presentation in the theatre, entitled 'School Life Without Labels'. He said, "Although it is often necessary to label children initially to ensure that they can



get the support they need, we strongly believe that they should not then be segregated and divided according to their support needs. Labels are debilitating and can hold back children and young people."

A video can be seen at: www.tces.org.uk

In the news

ELIS achieves IQM award

In June 2018 East London Independent School was awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). This means that both our London schools have been awarded the IQM. Essex Fresh Start and Create London will be working towards this in the next academic year.

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.

Here are two of the many positive comments about ELIS, taken from the IQM assessment report:

“During the morning of the IQM visit, a very powerful message was outstandingly put across in an assembly regarding our actions and the importance of respect for oneself, one’s community and the world. All the pupils who were present were fully engaged and showed skills of self-reflection, empathy and were able to focus and listen.”

“The dedication of the staff for the pupils at ELIS means that pupils have the best opportunities for inclusion and for success in life.”

The full IQM Award report can be found at: <http://www.tces.org.uk/schools/schools/east-london-independent-school/inclusion-quality-mark-award/>



First TCES Group baby!

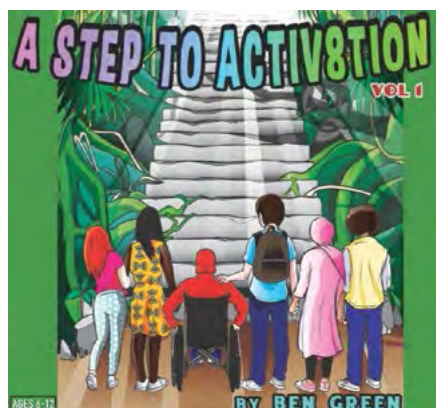


Congratulations to Lateefah from NWLIS and her partner Michael from ELIS on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Ameerah Ama.

We believe that Ameerah, born on 20 January and weighing in at 8 lb, could be the first 'TCES Group baby', ie the first to be born to parents both working for the group. What a cutie.



Launch of wellbeing and fitness book



Our wellbeing coach at ELIS, Ben Green, has launched his own book for

children aged 6-12 yrs about fitness and wellbeing, called '**A Step to Activ8tion, Vol 1**'.

Says Ben, “This fun activity book of self-discovery details valuable content to inspire and motivate our young people to be proactive and take control of their own wellbeing. The book is innovative and educational and can develop the young readers’ knowledge to understand elements of wellbeing in a fun way.”

Featured in the book is a series of daily reflective journals that encourage

children to think about what they have achieved and what they can improve upon, plus an informative chapter detailing the importance of nutrition, sleep and exercise.

The book had an official launch at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, featuring motivational speakers, including of course, Ben, who gave an insight into the concept and vision of the book.

A Step to Activ8tion, Vol 1 is for sale on Amazon.

Successful tutoring for pupils ‘in transition’



In our Spring bulletin we introduced the latest service offered by Teaching Talent – tutoring for pupils in transition, ie with a statement and EHCP and not currently in education but awaiting a school placement.

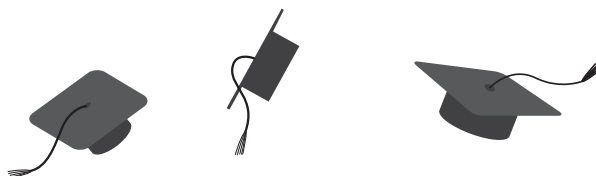
A number of pupils have now been able to make use of this service; Ahmed (not his real name) being one example. Teaching Talent was approached to provide education for Ahmed while a longer term solution was being sought by the Local Authority. He had already been out of education for more than one year due to schools not being able to meet his needs. While receiving tutoring from Teaching Talent Ahmed made good progress. Both

tutors who worked with him were understanding about accommodating his needs and, using a child-centred approach, have managed to help him develop a love of learning in the subjects taught.

Ahmed’s mother said, “Ahmed looks forward to his lessons. It has helped him to take his mind off health problems. He says he now feels like a 'normal kid' and is happy that he is keeping up academically with his peers at school.” She added, “Maria, the Co-ordinator, is friendly and efficient. She is always available to make sure that everything is running smoothly.”

Find out more: maria.takkou@teachingtalent.co.uk

In the news



NWLIS graduation 'heartwarming'

Proud parents, carers, family and staff witnessed seven Y11 pupils graduate in a heartwarming ceremony on 19 July.

Aaron O, Todd, Aaron A, Kayne, Tariq, Hussein and Nicky were each congratulated by Head Teacher Katrina Medley, CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney and one of the UK's leading Black History and Culture Specialists Andrew 'Papa G' Muhammad, who is instrumental in supporting and nurturing NWLIS pupils.

Pupils Aaron and Hussein courageously stood up and delivered impassioned speeches while demonstrating their immeasurable gratitude to the teachers who made a difference in helping to transform their lives.

Thomas Keaney said: "It was the most incredibly emotional graduation event, celebrated in a packed hall of parents, carers, peers, staff and community. I spoke about their journey from social isolation to independence, without any tissues to hand. Big mistake!" He went on to add, "The pupils are kept at the absolute centre of everything we do."



Parents and grandparents took to the stage, telling the audience how their child's behaviour has been 'transformed' by the hard work and dedication of NWLIS's teaching staff.

Lastly, Andrew Muhammad had a few awards of his own to hand out: Hussein (*above*) for 'Pupil of the Year', Kayne for 'Most improved Pupil' and Nicky for 'Outstanding Pupil'.

With several Y11 pupils receiving provisional places at Westminster Kingsway College, we would like to wish all seven graduates the very best of luck with their ongoing endeavours.

Clinical Corner

SDQ Analysis

As part of our inclusion model we recognise the need to track outcomes both for our individual young people and for each of our sites. One of the ways that we do this is by asking our tutors to complete Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) three times a year for each pupil that they work with.

The SDQ is a brief behavioural screening questionnaire that is widely used by organisations, such as Place2Be, to measure impact of interventions and used within CAMHS services. It looks at 25 questions that are divided between five scales: emotional symptoms; conduct problems; hyperactivity/inattention; peer relationship problems; and prosocial behaviour. Teachers answer each question 'not true', 'somewhat true' or 'certainly true' and each answer generates a score. Where a young person scores high or very high on a particular scale they would be considered to have very significant needs in that area, however, it should be noted that the SDQ on its own is not a diagnostic tool.

As well as providing information about individual young people the SDQ can be used to take a snapshot of the difficulties across a whole school population. This gives us valuable information about the complexity of needs at any given site at any given time and about the impact of our interventions over time.

Data for one site across the 2017-18 Academic year

	Sep	Jan	Mar	Jul
Emotional difficulties	5.09	4.69	4.54	2.76
Conduct difficulties	4.50	4.62	4.38	3.48
Hyperactivity	7.50	7.38	6.46	5.88
Problems with peers	5.27	4.15	4.15	3.6
Prosocial behaviour	4.55	5.62	5.15	4.76
Total difficulties score	22.36	20.85	19.92	15.72
Internalising	10.36	8.85	8.69	6.36
Externalising	12.00	12.00	10.85	9.36

Key: red = very high; orange = high; yellow = slightly raised; green = average

For this school, we can see that the highest scores are consistently in the areas of externalising behaviours with lower scores recorded for emotional difficulties. Total difficulties scores (based on the first four scores), while decreasing at the end of the school year, are within the very high range for the majority of the time period, highlighting the complexity of need across all of the scales and across the school's population. Being able to carefully analyse where our young people have the highest levels of difficulty helps us to reshape our interventions in order to best meet their needs.

Find out more: jackie.lindeck@tces.org.uk

Inter-school football tournament

"Teamwork makes the dream work"

Wednesday 9 May heralded the return of the TCES Group schools and Create Services' annual football tournament at the Brentwood Leisure Centre in Essex. This year the weather was kind: the blue skies and warm sunshine allowed for perfect on and off pitch conditions. Staff members' immense hard work and organisation paid off with the creation of a memorable day of great teamwork and sportsmanship for all who participated.

On arrival, ELIS and NWLIS pupils got straight down to their impressive warm-up routines in preparation for the fierce competition the tournament is well known for.

For the first time, Create Essex fielded its own team who were notable for conducting themselves extremely well. The players were accompanied by AOT Faye and hub lead for Clacton, Sadie who were clearly delighted to be there, saying, "It's been a great achievement getting the team here. Although the pupils have been nervous and anxious about the tournament over the past week, they're also really excited about taking part. One player only joined us last week, but they're all pulling well together and it's so nice to see them playing as a team."



Throughout the day there were some great matches and exciting goals, demonstrating how teams were benefitting from their regular practice sessions leading up to the tournament.

Eventually it was a tense all EFS final between Clacton and Witham, resulting in Clacton, whose team included the only girl in this year's tournament, beating Witham into second place with a score of 3-0.

Head Teacher of EFS, Cheryl Rutter said, "We're delighted to be champions at last and are enjoying our moment of glory after losing on penalties two years in a row. I understand that it was a great day all round with lots of examples of great

sportsmanship from all the schools taking part. Another great success for TCES Group schools and services."

"Whether we do well or not we will do our school proud. It's good to get to know other kids from other schools."

Nick



"Being part of the family is what is best about playing for my school team. When we're in the flow of the game I get a rush of happiness and energy. Teamwork makes the dream work."

Hussein

A special well done to NWLIS whose teams took third and fourth places, only losing out on a place in the final on goal difference.

At the end of the day all players received a special medal and other awards went to:

Sportsmanship Award: Kleberton (ELIS)

Player of the tournament: Nick (NWLIS)

Thomas Keaney said, "This tournament is one of the foundation stones of the TCES Group, along with Celebration Day and our Cultural, Arts and Leadership weeks. An important part of our curriculum, these events are spread across the school year and are crucial to ensure that we deliver our philosophy of inclusion and values. Well done to all the players, who demonstrated admirable sportsmanship and teamwork, the referees and the staff whose contribution both on and off the pitch made the event possible."



Parent page

Successful parents' morning

Staff at NWLIS have always seen the significance of sharing information with parents and feel that their

parents' morning is the perfect opportunity to do just this. For this term's parents' morning there was a fantastic 67% turn-out. Head Teacher Katrina Medley says that she's still hopeful that more parents will attend during the next academic year.

The event gave parents the opportunity to meet with their son or daughter's class tutor and teaching assistant and to share good news as well as setting targets for improvement together.



Meet the Clinician

The first NWLIS Meet the Clinician Coffee Morning kicked off on 3 July. This was an informal meeting where parents and carers were able to meet with the school's designated Speech and Language Therapist, Inclusion Manager and Occupational Therapist. The meeting provided a platform to gain information or ask any questions parents might have regarding their child's development.

Parents who attended were able to gain insight into strategies to help their child in the home environment and enjoyed the opportunity to offer support and guidance to each other.

Meet the Clinician Coffee Mornings will continue termly in the new academic year and the school staff hope to see many more parents coming along to benefit from the next session.

Parent workshops introduced

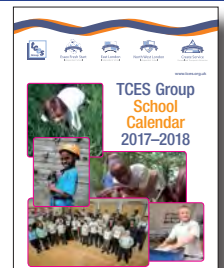
Following consultation with all of our existing parent councils, we are pleased to announce that, from September 2018, every TCES Group school and service will be offering after school or evening parent/carer workshops. These will be delivered by a combination of external training providers and our own highly skilled practitioners. Themes that you have told us that you'd like to learn more about include: preventing knife crime; cyber-bullying; understanding the Education, Health and Care plan; using clinical strategies at home; and e-safety. These sessions will be scheduled in advance and, like our parent councils, are open to any parent/carer of a child at one of our schools/services.

If you would like to join the parent council at your child's school, please contact the school directly. More news about these exciting parent/carer workshops will be coming shortly.



School calendars

Before the start of term parents and carers will be sent their own school calendar, containing all the dates to remember throughout the new school year. In the meantime, here are the term dates:



Autumn Term 2018: 4 September – 19 December inclusive

Half Term: 22 – 26 October inclusive

Spring Term 2019: 7 January – 5 April inclusive

Half Term: 18 – 22 February inclusive

Summer Term 2019: 24 April – 24 July inclusive

Half Term: 24 – 31 May inclusive

INSET Days (Pupil non-attendance)

- **Friday 19 October 2018**
- **Friday 23 November 2018**
- **Friday 14 December 2018**
- **Friday 4 January 2019**
- **Tuesday 23 April 2019**
- **Friday 24 May 2019**
- **Friday 21 June 2019**
- **Wednesday 24 July 2019**

Please note that INSET days on Fridays count as half a day only.

Celebration Day

Celebration Day Climbing Champions:

Based on teamwork, encouragement and supporting each other
ELIS



Overall Celebration Day Champions:

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

Yvette Barlow Award winner:

For the best progress in ICT
ELIS: Jalal
NWLIS: Michael
EFS: Kavanagh
Create London: Zoraise



The TCES Group annual Celebration Day is always one of the highlights of our year, and this one was no exception.

Pupils and staff from all of our schools and services met at Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre where they enjoyed learning new skills and demonstrating team working abilities, by taking part in a range of sporting activities including raft building, climbing, abseiling, leap of faith and, new for 2018, the team challenge.



"I found the whole day fun because of the raft building, I've never done anything like that before. I would definitely do it again!" – Ryan, NWLIS

Best pupil progress winner:

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

ELIS: Rubel
NWLIS: Tariq
EFS: George
Create Essex: Owen
Create London: Kerrie

Best pupil progress runner up:

ELIS: Ebenezer
NWLIS: Yassin
EFS: Dillon
Create Essex: Pypa
Create London: Jack

Most improved pupil winner:

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

ELIS: Tafari
NWLIS: Tre
EFS: Tyrese
Create Essex: Tyn
Create London: Ellie-May

Most improved pupil runner up:

ELIS: Alessio
NWLIS: Hussein
EFS: Scott
Create Essex: Levi
Create London: Joshua

Su English Award winner:

For outstanding achievement in Speaking and Listening

ELIS: Dominic
NWLIS: Tia
EFS: Joshua
Create Essex: Oliver
Create London: Jonathon



"We learnt about trusting each other, communicating and fighting our fears"
 – Maison, ELIS

Also new for this year was that by 10 July we were well and truly into the 2018 heatwave so good weather was a certainty for a change!

The day culminated in a prize giving ceremony for the team awards and the coveted team player award. Well done to all pupils!

Celebration Day Team Player Award winners:
 Based on performance throughout the day, a pupil who encapsulates and demonstrates the TCES Group values, through courageous determination, assisting and inspiring fellow team mates, respecting those around them and leading by good example
Joshua, EFS and Maison, ELIS (tied)



"It was fun, I really enjoyed myself. My favourite part was abseiling I was nervous at first but enjoyed it after"
 – Bailey, NWLIS

Celebration Day Raft Building Champions:
 Based on teamwork during the construction and sailing of the rafts
Create London
Raft Building runner up: NWLIS



Celebration Day British Values Champions:
 Based on the team epitomising the four values: democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance for those with different faiths and beliefs
EFS and Create Essex

"I felt very brave jumping and hanging on 10m high, especially as I didn't think I could be that brave"
 – Aaliyah, ELIS

Best pupil attendance winner:
 For either the pupil with consistent 100% attendance, or pupil who has made the biggest improvement
ELIS: Abul
NWLIS: Ryan
EFS: Callum
Create Essex: Owen
Create London: Kaden
Best pupil attendance runner up:
ELIS: Stephen-Lee
NWLIS: Johnny
EFS: Keil
Create Essex: Pypa
Create London: Rustamus

Janet Dean Award winner:
 For outstanding effort or improvement in numeracy and literacy
ELIS: Sadia
NWLIS: Faith
EFS: Archie
Create Essex: Oliver
Create London: Nathan

Most supportive staff member winner:
 As voted for by the pupils
ELIS: Joel and Perry (tied)
NWLIS: Stephen
EFS Clacton: Amy
EFS Witham: Thea
Create Essex: Karen
Create London: Kayleann and Deborah (one per site)

afPE Quality Mark

We are delighted that ELIS was awarded the Association for Physical Education (afPE) Quality Mark in July for 'demonstrating good commitment to improvement in physical education & sport'. Valid for three years, the afPE Quality Mark is the benchmark and industry standard for high quality physical education and sport in school.



Reasons given by the afPE for awarding the Quality Mark to ELIS include 'the place of the subject in whole school improvement and the whole of the curriculum' and 'Community Links which have had significant impact on the pupils. Part of their curriculum is to enable them to take their place in the world. Much of this is through physical education and sport.' They also commended the

dynamism and vision of School Improvement Partner, Kevin Parker.

Congratulating the ELIS staff, Thomas Keane said, "A large reason for this success lies with the work done by Ben Green and Eddie Szostak, overseen by Alicia Pennant in PE, Health, Fitness and Wellbeing. When the afPE visited the school they were particularly impressed by the health and wellbeing passports that have been introduced, providing each pupil with the means to set and record targets in the areas of general health, diet, fitness and wellbeing."

ELIS is the first of our schools to achieve this prestigious award, but our other schools are already on their journey towards gaining it.

Fencing Awards

Congratulations to four pupils from ELIS who have gained their Grade 1 Achievement Award in foil. A foil is a light, thrusting sword with a small, circular hand guard and a flexible, rectangular blade. They were historically used to train for fights to defend one's honour! In foil, fencers can only score with the tip of the sword, by touching the opponent's torso (including back, neck and groin), which is called the target area.

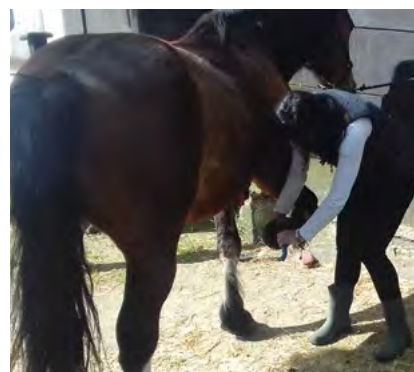
British Olympic Coach, Linda said that the four boys, Dominic, Kleberton, Stephen and Leon, "Have done remarkably well, achieving this grade in less than a year! In fact, they achieved it in just under two terms of fencing due to their hard work. They are the only students in the whole of East London to achieve this new grade so I am very proud of them!"

Each boy was presented with a cloth badge and certificate as proof of their achievement.



Enrichment

One of the ELIS Y9 pupils enjoyed an enrichment lesson at Alderbrook Equestrian Centre. She was first taught about animal care, before going for a pleasant riverside ride on Bea.

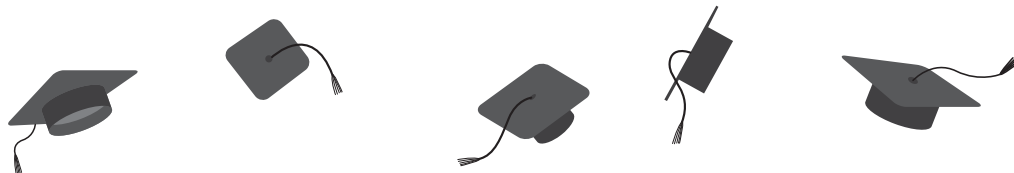


Pupil gains glowing report on work experience

15billionebp sent a glowing report to ELIS after Mahfuz spent time with them on a work experience assignment, saying that he was keen to learn and did incredibly well. While he was at 15billionebp Mahfuz carried out a variety of office tasks including word processing, photocopying, scanning and shredding.

Sharon Tomlin, Director of Newham Work Experience Team at 15billionebp said, "Mahfuz did so well, when he came in of a morning he would say hi to the staff here. His confidence grew each day, which was a pleasure to see. His IT skills were very good and he carried out all tasks asked of him. He did say he enjoyed the calming environment here, which allowed him to concentrate and focus on his work. He also enjoyed the tea and biscuits we supplied!!!

"It was a real pleasure having him with us; the staff loved him! He was very well behaved too. He did you proud. We wish him every success for the future."



ELIS Graduation

Once again, it was a lovely sunny afternoon on 18 July for the first official ELIS graduation, so pupils, staff, Y11 and Y12 graduates and their families were able to enjoy an amazing event in the school's garden.

Congratulations to the eleven young men graduating – Morgan, Maison, Richard, Rubel, Jordan, Darnel, Abul, Lee, Ebenezer, Barry and Jevan. Those who attended the ceremony really looked the part in their gowns and caps. Not only that, their personal achievements, behaviour, maturity and gratitude left the entire audience bursting with pride.



Speaking at the graduation, CEO and Schools' Proprietor Thomas Keaney said, "I would like to extend my congratulations to these pupils. We are extremely proud of you and what you have achieved. You are not just graduating today with a wide range of qualifications, but as young men who have developed your talents and gifts and who are going to be a credit to our school in the future because you have also developed the values that go into making this a fully inclusive school that we can all be proud of."

"ELIS is an environment where Jordan knows he's accepted and loved and this really gives me peace of mind. I appreciate how supportive the staff are; they're doing a great job and should be proud of themselves." Jordan's mum

"Thank you to all the ELIS staff. I know that when I started my behaviour was very bad, but you've helped me to improve. I'm now putting my head down and working hard. I can see now that if you put your mind to something it can become possible." Rubel

Staff members and other pupils attending the graduation were keen to take the microphone, saying how they'll miss these pupils when they leave and wishing them luck on their future journeys.



"In the four years I've known Darnel his progression since he's been at ELIS has been remarkable. I just wish he'd come here sooner. I'm 100% confident that he wouldn't have graduated if he hadn't been at ELIS. The difference in him is just incredible – he's matured, learned to control himself much better and now enjoys school. I'm so proud of him and so glad he found ELIS. A big, big thank you to the staff. You've made such a difference and really helped him to change his life. I'm so glad that he's chosen to stay here for two more years. We need more schools like this in the community." Darnel's Pastor, Paul Burnett

"The staff at ELIS have been extremely supportive and their guidance has been outstanding. Once Aasim started to guide Rubel his behaviour really improved. He was socially uncomfortable when he first joined the school, but now he's so much better. I can't thank the staff enough for what they've done for him." Rubel's mum



Find out more: sandra.harrison@tces.org.uk

British Values week

I learned that there were only two executions at the Tower Of London

-Liam

...Leadership & British Values Week

Upper Nurture - Clacton

Tower of London Trip

Learning Objectives
To investigate who helped create Britain as we know it



Our language has evolved through the centuries. Romans brought Latin. Anglo Saxons formed our counties.

Shakespeare created new words, such as "eyeball" and "elbow". Today's grime musicians have created new words and phrases, such as "peak" and "on fleek". We compared Shakespeare to today's grime and created our own poems using new words.

In London, we were surrounded by people from other countries. Britain has been shaped and created through introductions of other cultures throughout the centuries.

During the week, we have been looking at how our language and culture has evolved and why Britain looks the way it does today.

British coin competition

During British Values week pupils took part in a competition to design new coins incorporating a British theme. The coin design winner was Ethan, who created a lovely detailed coin, with a Union Jack theme, shown here.



A very British Cream Tea

On Friday 6 July parents of pupils were invited to EFS Witham for its Celebration Assembly, followed by a special British Cream Tea, to celebrate the end of British Values Week at the school.

All the pupils worked hard to make the event a success for their parents. In the lead up, Primary and KS3 ASC pupils worked as a team to create posters and menus for the event. Then a number of pupils baked scones and cakes, while Y10 pupils picked strawberries for the tea. Pupils then worked together to prepare the hall for the event.

Their parents were very appreciative, saying:
"Had a fabulous time, cream tea was delicious."
"Had a wonderful time as usual, very scrummy."
"A lovely cream tea. Pupils very polite and friendly."



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

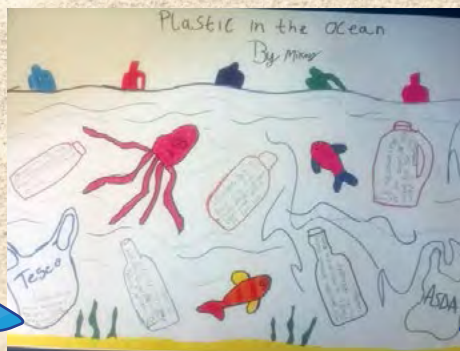
Clacton Nurture Group learn about effects of pollution to local beach

KS3 Nurture Class at EFS took advantage of the recent good weather by stepping out of the classroom and onto the beach. Sea pollution plays an important part of the pupils' curriculum, where they're learning what the impact of environmental damage has on our aquatic ecosystem.

Pupil Mikey has put together a poster (*below*) with his thoughts and advice, as well as participating in a beach clean-up by picking up litter. Mikey is pictured with staff from the Environment Agency who were also working on the beach.



"Re-use or recycle plastic bottles so they don't end up in the ocean"



"When you go to the beach, pick up as much plastic as you can and put it in the bin"

Art project for community church

Pupils and staff at EFS Witham work closely with their local church, St Nicolas, each month using one of the forest school sessions to litter pick and help to upkeep the church grounds.

When the church was holding a medieval fayre they asked the Witham pupils to create an art display. Art teacher Matthew worked hard with Nurture pupils to make their own shields, each of which included the pupils' own independently designed coat of arms.



Pupils attend Firebreak course

EFS was able to secure funding for pupils from Witham, Clacton and Create Essex to take part in a week-long Firebreak course. The course, run by Essex County Fire and Rescue Service, was a huge success.



Successes for Post-16 creative arts pupils

Two NWLIS pupils have utilised their artistic talents to take part in some exciting opportunities in the worlds of performing arts and animation.

Y12 pupil Michael recently spent the day on a 'world of work' visit to animators Mummu in London's Hoxton. Michael first visited in 2017 and received a standing ovation from the animators after showing them his work and they asked that he return, so they could watch his latest animations and see how his techniques had developed.

Michael had taken on board a lot from his first visit and was able to not only show them three new animations, but the stages of development from mood board, to storyboard to screen.

He spent the day with professional animators who demonstrated and worked 1:1 alongside him to develop his skills using the industry standard After Effects software and teach him valuable techniques that he can take forward in order to further his goal to work in the industry.

Myles, also in Y12, was given the opportunity to attend the prestigious Actors Studio at Pinewood Studios to learn screen acting. This will not only go towards Unit 1 of his Gold Arts Award, but help him to learn some of the techniques required to pursue his dream of becoming a television and film actor. Myles' creativity knows no bounds: in addition to screen acting he is also writing and recording rap songs for the new ASDAN Expressive

Arts Award – and he's produced some stunning album cover artwork to accompany it!



World of work workshop

They may still have some way to go before starting their careers, but Y11 leavers have been prepping for life after education. The pupils took part in a world of work workshop on 3 July, aimed at supporting them with their transition to the wider world and to help build life skills such as self-confidence, resilience and hard work. During the workshop pupils completed their CVs and job application forms and received advice on what to expect post 16.

Celebrating the Royal Wedding

On Friday 16 May, the day before the 'big day', NWLIS pupils were joined by parents, carers, staff and other members of the local community to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

Pupils and staff kindly donated cakes and lemonade and the school's chef made a special Victoria sponge to mark the occasion. The Student Council showed how well they could host by helping to serve cakes and drinks. A good time was had by all!



Student Council members served cakes and drinks



NWLIS parents and staff

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

From isolation to integration: Create Service to school

We are delighted that Create London's successful intensive intervention with three of its pupils has enabled them to step-down to lower levels of support and integrate back into a school environment. All three will be starting to become integrated into ELIS in September, which for the Local Authorities who have placed them will represent a requisite reduction in pupil placement fee.

Two of the pupils have been with Create since March 2016 (pupil A) and July 2017 (pupil B). On arrival, their diagnoses included autistic traits, sensory difficulties, major anxiety difficulties, attachment disorder and sleep difficulties.

Planned integration

Their journey has been planned carefully, allowing gradual integration into the Therapeutic Hub, using a delicate balance of independent and small group learning. Over the past year, they've been able to regularly attend group celebrations such as weekly assemblies, where pupils receive certificates and recognition of their achievements.

Both pupils have made rapid progress in particular over the last 12 months, leading Create staff to believe that they are now ready for challenges beyond the service. Dorrette Holder, Deputy Head of Create London said, "We monitor our pupils' progress carefully and felt that these three were ready to begin their integration journey as they are now showing a very mature approach to school life, making general academic progress and are able to integrate well with their peers at Create."

Clear career paths

At ELIS they can prepare to take GCSEs and vocational courses, following a clear career path via work

experience or apprenticeships - pupil A now aspires to become a chef and eventually run his own restaurant, while pupil B is interested in a career as a car mechanic.

Pupil A has already demonstrated excellent cooking skills at Create, including baking and cake decorating. Taking food technology lessons and a Jamie Oliver cooking course he's developing the ability to cook for large groups of people from scratch and has gained hospitality skills around entertaining.

Student Council

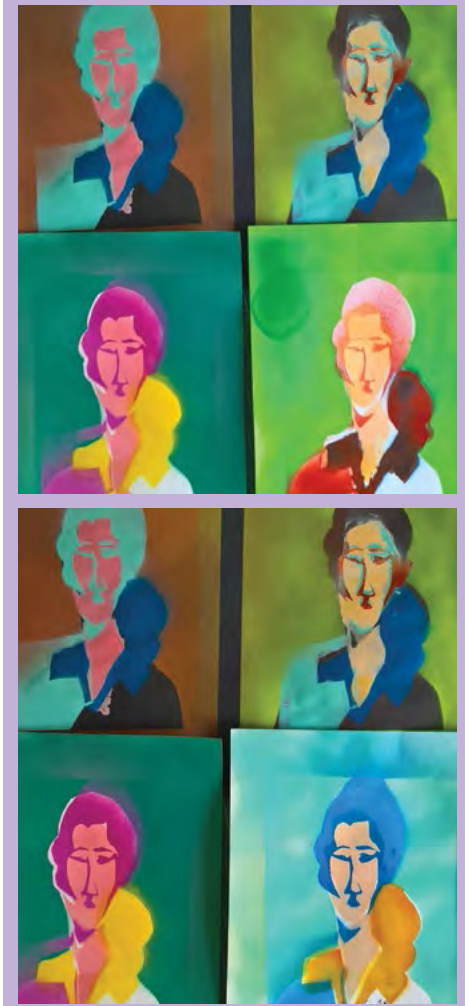
In line with TCES Group philosophy, they were encouraged to become active members in their Student Council, through which pupils typically experience empowerment, leading to greater confidence and an improvement in behaviour. The benefit of this has been particularly apparent in pupil A whose social skills have developed hugely at Create. Originally, he would lock himself away, was anxious and unable to interact with others. Two years on he's spent time as Chair of the Student Council and is comfortable with himself and others, to the point that he has now become a very good peer mentor.

Parent support

Regular consistent contact with parents has also been instrumental, not just for these pupils. Staff have been delighted that a number of parents, responding to Parent Voice, have become involved with activities at the Hub, showing a very high level of interest in the education of their children. The result of this is that attendance is now over 95% and pupil behaviour has improved dramatically. Dorrette Holder said, "I am genuinely excited at the prospect of being a part of giving these children the

Artist in the making

Pupils enjoyed a great art session using stencils and spray paint. We're really impressed by Sean's skills in transforming a classical portrait by the artist Modigliani into vibrant pop style art.



opportunity to achieve progress into a school placement. We are sure that their integration into ELIS will set the tone for other pupils - exciting times!"

Smooth transition

Staff at both sites are working closely to ensure a smooth transition for the pupils. This includes a parents' visit to the school, weekly visits for the pupils leading up to their start date and a visit to the hub by the ELIS Head Teacher, Sandra Harrison, to speak to the pupils about school life at ELIS.



Childline fundraiser

Knowing that Dame Esther Rantzen DBE was coming to officially open ELIS on 29 June, schools and services across the TCES Group were keen to raise money for her charity, Childline. An impressive grand total of £500 was raised and a giant cheque was produced, which Maison presented her with at the event after making a lovely, emotional speech.

All pupils took part in a short assembly to learn more about Childline and Dame Esther Rantzen before thinking about how they could raise funds for the charity. Parent Councils, Student Councils and all pupils and staff were invited to get involved.

ELIS

Staff and pupils had a great time one Friday, raising money for Childline, through activities including car washing, cake sale sponsored non-uniform day for pupils and staff dressing as "Men in Black".



EFS

Clacton pupils washed cars and held a cake sale, and at Witham pupils and teachers swapped roles for one hour as well as holding a plant sale.



Create Service London

Create London held their fundraising event – a sale of cakes, biscuits, tea and coffee – at the Barking Therapeutic Hub. In addition to raising money, the event also provided an opportunity to work on four areas:

- The Student Council took responsibility for inviting all Create London parents to the fundraising event
- The event was seen as a great opportunity to assist in establishing the Create London Parent Council. The Chair took the opportunity to network and to invite other parents along to a future meeting, scheduled before the end of term
- Create London pupils are taking an ASDAN course, which incorporates them coming together as a group to organise a fundraising event. As part of this, pupils prepared by baking cakes the day before their event.
- The fundraiser also provided an opportunity to establish/strengthen community links, especially with the doctor's surgery next door to the Therapeutic Hub and the nearby mainstream primary school.



Create London staff and students having fun selling cakes, coffees and teas to members of the community



Create London staff showing off display of homemade and hub made cakes

NWLIS

Pupils held a non-school uniform day to raise funds.