

# TCES

## HOME LEARNING



TCES Home Learning Summer  
Newsletter

## Summer Holidays



Firstly, I hope you all have a good break over the summer holidays. *The Education Endowment Foundation recognises that working one to one with a tutor is effective but is also very intensive.* So pupils working from home need this chance to regroup and recover as much as any other student. Please congratulate your child on their success in this academic year and we look forward to continued progress next year.

## Important Dates

*Friday 22nd July 2022 is an Inset Day*

*Last day of lessons is Thursday 21st July*

**Autumn Term starts on Monday 5th September.**

**The Home Learning office is open over the Summer for any queries you may have.**

## Home Learning Achievements



***Congratulations to the three Home Learning pupils who sat their GCSEs in their home this summer. We look forward to giving more pupils the opportunity to show off their learning in the safe environment of their home. If you are interested in finding out more about how we can make this work for you, please let us know.***

## Poetry Competition

Home Learning pupils enjoyed a tailor-made Poetry Project lead by our very talented English Tutor, Sabrina Reid who did an amazing job of designing the structure of the poetry project and all required resources, once again, spreading the joy and power of words across Home Learning

Ryan worked hard on a very beautiful, sophisticated and moving poem titled: 'Darkness Will Not Take Control. Through his use of language, Ryan has explored the importance of the power of positive thinking, perseverance, goal setting, being aware of and appreciating progress. His work also carries nods to Growth Mindset Practice and strategies for supporting good mental health in all of us.

Ryan is part of a growing number of creators who are acknowledging (especially in a Post-Lockdown World), the importance of talking about and understanding how we can all keep ourselves and each other mentally healthy, recognise our strengths and enjoy a greater sense of peace and worth in ourselves and the world. It is a pleasure to see Ryan standing among such proponents of positive mental health as Matt Haig <http://www.matthaig.com/video/>, Charlie Mackesy <https://www.charliemackesy.com/> and Alis Rowe <https://thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk/>



***Darkness Will Not Take Control***

**RC**

Life is full of darkness but darkness will not take control,  
the wind may sway harshly but remember your goal.

A goal that keeps you going, it keeps you on the move,  
It allows you space to grow and improve.

Improve your art, improve your spirit,  
ghosts from the past may arrive and problems may visit,  
they may speak their tongue, but their meaning is implicit.

It may keep you calm like a wave that moves your boat or like the sound of a lonesome cricket.

At points you will feel rumbled but do not be scared, this is the challenge relax and be prepared,

There are plenty of rocks in the road on the path to greatness,

you may be served problems from the hands of a waitress.

Life is full of darkness, but darkness will not take control,

The wind may sway harshly but remember your goal.

A goal that keeps you going, it may keep you wide awake,  
when you finally arrive at the halfway point it may feel like a mistake,  
but stay strong, and do not let your spirit break.

Strive toward your ambition, and remember your mission,

roam the plains of your mind like a scientist on an expedition,

reposition your mind and remember:

life is not a competition.

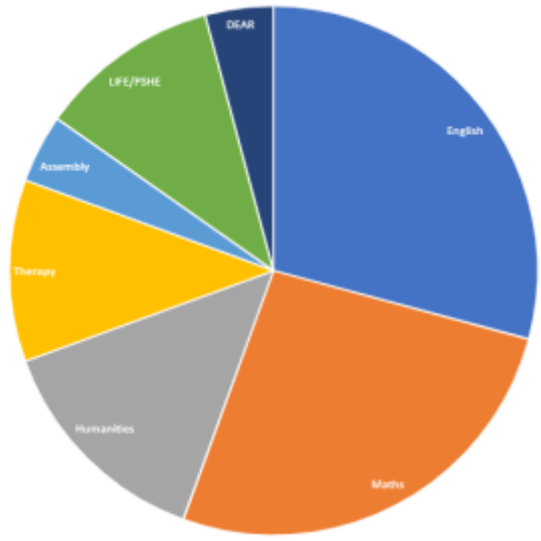
Summer Term has seen the launch of the first joint TCES schools and services Arts Week.



The week began with an animation project. Each TCES pupil was asked to contribute a piece of expressive artwork themed around a 'human walk cycle'. Pupils used a variety of materials and techniques to create a varied and engaging series of artworks that have been filmed and edited by Brian for our enjoyment. It is a beautiful film, thanks to all pupils and staff who supported this complex project.

The week culminated in an outstanding display of art showcasing art from all areas of TCES including Home Learning. We look forward to further collaboration in the future.

### Developments in Home Learning



As Home Learning continues to grow we are now able to offer a broader and more balanced curriculum. This starts with weekly assemblies that pupils can join in remotely in real time or watch at a time that suits them. Topics will include current affairs, themes of national and international importance and subjects that are of interest to our pupils that they would like to discuss with the Home Learning Community. Friday assemblies will also include celebrating the successes of the week.

**The TCES award winning LIFE programme will also be offered to develop the attitudes and skills needed for successful adulthood.**

*'Drop everything and Read (DEAR time)* also plays a part as we celebrate the importance of reading for pleasure. Book recommendations and reviews will be discussed and shared but exposure to words and text can come in many forms and newspaper articles, magazines, interviews and blogs will also be a key component of our DEAR time. Listening to Books also provides an excellent way to increase vocabulary and knowledge. *As with everything in Home Learning the Curriculum and the delivery of that curriculum is personalised for each student.*

## Out and About

One of our students was able to visit the **Tower of London** last week. The Tower is enjoying a **Superbloom** event to celebrate their wildflower meadow. AS is supported by Home Learning and through that support is able to attend his onsite school in person, something we are keen to develop for many of our students to feel connected and maintain relationships and we were really pleased to be able to support AS on a school trip.













## *Student End Of Year Awards 2022*

We are so proud of our Home Learning Students this year. Each of them has made incredible progress in areas that are singular to themselves. We are pleased to be sending out individualised trophies to our excellent students and are looking forward to continued achievement next year.



## Parent Feedback



Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts through the [Home Learning Parent Feedback](#) form. This form is always open or you can contact any of the Home Learning Team directly.

One parent told us that her son had made above expected progress, particularly in "*his confidence to sit exams in a home setting ,He would never have taken any exams in normal setting , his academic progress amazing*".

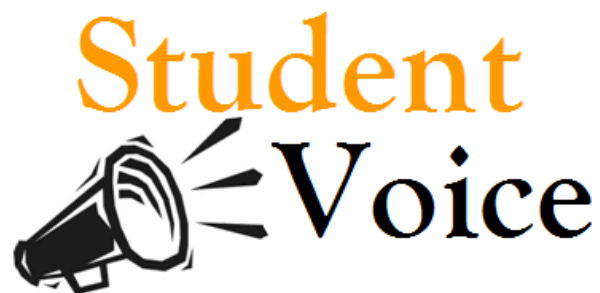
*"I'm so very very proud of him and his tutor is unbelievably compassionate, building his confidence and always smile ready."*

(Home Learning parent)

*Working together with parents is the key to success and we are keen to support our parent community as much as we support our pupils. TCES has a strong history of working with parents in specific areas of support that they might need. This might be through access to courses or support and advice from our professional team which not only includes our skilled tutors and support team but also a group of specialists within the Therapy team in addition to the TCES Social Work and Education Practitioners.*

*Please let us know if there is an area that we can help you with or something that you would like to discuss.*

## Pupil Feedback



[Home Learning Pupil Feedback - What would YOU like to say?](#)

Home Learning isn't just about academic progress as one pupil told us of their experiences thanks to HL:

***"I made a friend because I stepped out of my comfort zone."***

We also asked each student what they would like to say in their End of Year report.

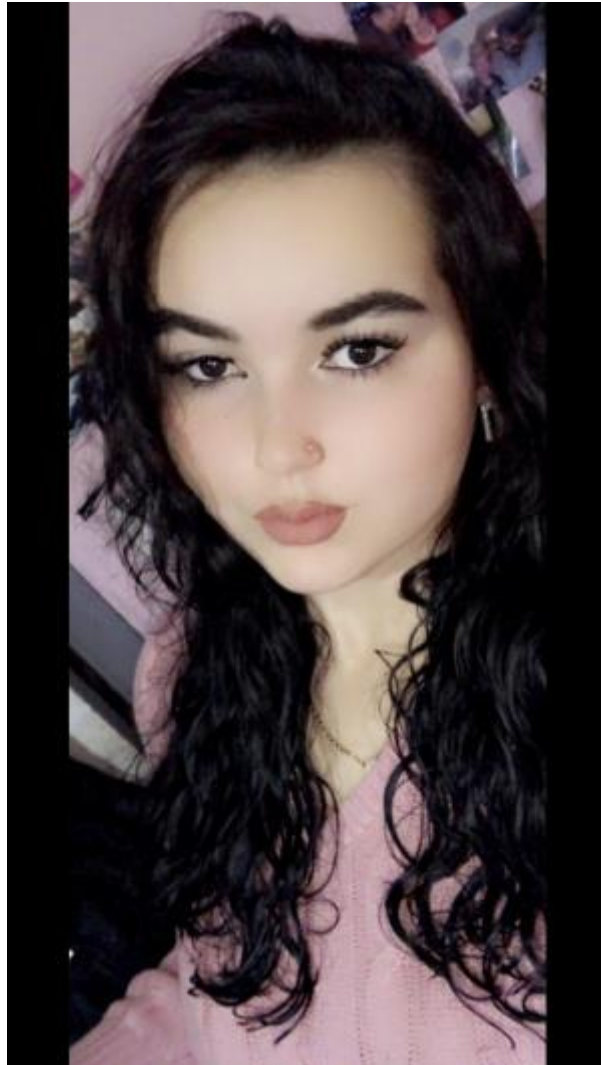
If your child has not responded please show them this link as hearing their voice (good or bad) is what is going to help us improve.

One pupil told us *"my confidence has gone up and has helped me finally see a future for myself"*

*"I would recommend this school for everyone really perfect and easy going no pressure and lovely teachers would absolutely recommend this school to the young people out there who struggle with mainstream".*

*Another student told us that he felt he was doing 'lots better than he was before'.*

*"I feel like I learned a lot in the time period I have been with TCES"*  
(Home Learning pupil)



### *Home Learning's first ever Alumni Mentor*

*"I am most looking forward to starting the Alumni Mentor role and exploring other GCSEs."*

TCES are proud of their Alumni Mentor programme: Our 'Entrants to Employee' programme aims to help our neurodiverse young leaders to transition through to become Alumni Mentor Volunteers and then Alumni Learning Mentor employees.

Alicia is the first Alumni Mentor to be appointed from the Home Learning Students. She is uniquely placed as someone who has overcome the hurdles of a very unsuccessful mainstream experience.

Alicia has worked incredibly hard towards her GCSE exams this year and is in prime position to support young people who are facing challenging times. All Alumni Mentors receive rigorous training

in a variety of areas including the nationally recognised qualifications of Level 2 Peer Mentoring and First Aid.

We are very pleased to be welcoming her to the Home Learning Support Team.

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*"TCES has helped me become a better individual. I would recommend Home Learning for everyone, it's really perfect and easy going, no pressure and lovely teachers. I would absolutely recommend this school to the young people out there who struggle with mainstream."*

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*"I want to further my knowledge whilst working."*

Alicia will join other former pupils across TCES schools and services who have embraced this opportunity to support and give back to the TCES community.

If you are a TCES pupil and would like to be an Alumni Mentor for the 2023 school year make sure you discuss the role with Alicia so she can give you the inside track on this hugely important and rewarding opportunity and how Home Learning could benefit from your input.

### *Kimmi Norris: Therapy Animal*



*"I love working with children and young people; I love to know that I am helping the people I work with but also having fun while doing it."*

Here at TCES, we are very proud to introduce Kimmi, Home Learning's Lead Therapist Coordinator.

Kimmi is an experienced Speech and Language therapist who has recently been appointed to lead and support Home Learning pupils, parents and staff, in addition to her responsibilities across the



company. Since she has been with us, Kimmi has led staff training programmes, created learning and communication resources, parent workshops, mentored staff, consulted on therapeutic interventions and supported many pupils both 1:1 and in groups.

*"I was drawn to TCES because of its vision of never giving up on students or staff."*

Across TCES, we are fortunate to have an excellent team of passionate, empathetic and dedicated tutors. It is these colleagues who, along with our therapy team, makes Home Learning so able to support 'the whole pupil'. Our founding principles have always driven us to go beyond what other education providers can offer, a tailor-made education curriculum and access to therapy is a vital part of this. Since its inception, TCES has led the way in promoting good mental health for pupils and colleagues and the Therapy Team have always been at the heart of this.

In the following interview, Kimmi gives her own take on why the TCES 'therapeutic approach to education' is so vital:

**What is the best thing about your job?**

*I love working with children and young people; I love to know that I am helping the people I work with but also having fun while doing it.*

**What is speech and language therapy?**

*Speech and language therapy supports people of all ages to communicate effectively using a manner that suits them best. This could include support with attention and listening, understanding spoken and written language, using language to communicate, conversation skills, expressing feelings and emotions, social skills, making and sustaining friendships.*

**Why is therapy so important?**

*The way I like to think about it is that therapy is important and valuable because it provides people with the skills and strategies they need to function to the best of their ability in the least restrictive environment. Therapy can provide tools to make life more accessible and enjoyable.*

**What drew you to TCES?**

*I was drawn to TCES because of its vision of never giving up on students or staff. So many of the children and young people I have worked with have experienced situations where in the past it has felt as though they have been given up on and I love that in TCES one of our core community values is never giving up. I love how TCES has embedded education and therapy; as a company we are evidenced-based and always aiming to provide the best possible service.*

### **How are pupils supported by therapy?**

*Therapy at TCES is embedded into all parts of the school day and is what we term 'Therapeutic Education' which is our universal offer available to all students in TCES. Interventions within the universal therapy offer address the following: Relationship building and integration, emotional literacy, emotional, behavioural and sensory regulation, social skills, attention and listening, receptive and expressive language, alternative forms of communication, therapeutic learning environments, independence skill building, motor skills and hand- writing and psychoeducation.*

*Students can also access therapy in a targeted or intensive manner where they would attend scheduled therapy sessions that focus on their specific needs. This would be based off their EHCP requirements, referrals from staff or parents or from the student themselves.*

### **What inspired you to become a speech therapist?**

*When I was looking into what to study at university, I always knew I wanted to work with children and young people, and I have always had a passion for helping people. I looked into speech and language therapy because my younger sister had been supported by a speech and language therapist when she was in primary school for several years. She found aspects of learning very difficult and was able to overcome a lot of those challenges through support from her therapist. She later went on to do extremely well when she finished school and was top of her class for her degree in Business Law. This has been such an inspiration to me, and I hope that I can help the children and young people I work with in a way that empowers them with skills that help them achieve all they want to achieve in life.*

***"Therapy can provide tools to make life more accessible and enjoyable."***

Wishing you a lovely Summer,

Kirsten, Matt and Stephanie