

Newsletter

March 2023



Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the latest edition of the newsletter, which focuses on personal development and how we help students prepare for adulthood, as well as news from each of our campuses.

One of West Lea's core values is 'community', and this has never been truer than in times of crisis. Following the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria, our thoughts and prayers are with all those who have been impacted and those who have lost loved ones. Coming together to provide support and strength during this time has been incredibly important and I'd like to thank the amazing efforts of our school community, which pulled together to gather donations. A particular thanks goes to our Parent Support Advisor, Zuhre Omer, for coordinating this and to our friends at Learning for Life Charity who are organising a jumble sale to support our efforts.

As we return from half-term, our focus is on personal development and how we can help our learners be the best they can be – both now and in the future. This isn't just through what they learn in the classroom, but through the exciting and challenging experiences that help them build the skills to develop relationships, grow as individuals, and make their way in the world. This support and guidance is what makes West Lea so special and is part of providing them with life-changing opportunities, which you can read more about throughout the newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us on this journey. We're looking forward to brighter days ahead now that Spring is upon us!

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Quinn'.

PAUL QUINN
CEO

community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**

In this edition

Welcome	2
Curriculum update - Personal development	4
National Storytelling Week	7
Meridian Campus	8
Haselbury Campus	9
Learning for Life Campus	10
Horizon Campus	11
Enterprise Cooperative Trust	12
Learning for Life Charity	13
Online safety update	14
Mental health update	15
West Lea in the news	16
Campus addresses	18
Key term dates 2023	19

West Lea School

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Curriculum update

Personal development

At West Lea our personal development curriculum helps learners prepare for adulthood and gives them the best chance of getting a job and living as independently as possible when they leave school.

We offer a range of opportunities – inside and outside the classroom – to help children learn about themselves, discover their talents, and grow into safe and caring adults. We teach them about fairness, democracy, making choices, laws and rules, and tolerance so they understand how to positively contribute to their community.

We listen to every student – whether that's through words,

objects, photographs, pictures or symbols and our school council representatives do a brilliant job debating, discussing and expressing views that help us run the school.

Behaviour is an important part of this and we teach the children about mutual respect and making good choices through our three simple rules 'Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Kind'.

Our enrichment activities and clubs combine students' interests with the skills they need to flourish today. We make sure there are no barriers for students so that they can take part and truly enjoy every opportunity.

To support this journey, we have developed our personal development domain within the curriculum that includes:

- Life and Work – including design and technology, catering, travel training and work experience at KS4.
- Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) – involving relationships and sex education.
- Physical Education.
- College vocational experiences at KS4.



PUTTING LEARNING INTO PRACTICE AT OUR CAMPUSES

Within **Meridian Campus**, learners at Dysons Road have been learning about caring for other people and animals and learning about choices and decisions in PSHE lessons. In Life and Work lessons, children have been learning about looking after what's in our local community and how we can begin to look after it.

As part of PSHE lessons at Springfield, children have been learning how to stay safe online while playing their favourite games or watching videos. They learnt that parts of their identity must be kept from people they don't know, both in-person and online.

During Life and Work lessons, KS2 students learned about the London Bus. They went on local trips to find the right bus stop, practised how to make it



stop, and went on a bus trip to Edmonton Green Station, learning how to stay safe while travelling.

At **Haselbury Campus**, we have helped students learn about growing up. This includes changes in their bodies and what happens during puberty, emotional wellbeing, looking after themselves mentally and physically, as well as exploring healthy relationships.

In Life and Work, Haselbury students have been learning how to look after themselves at home. This involves chores and using equipment and appliances. Students have also learnt how to stay safe in an emergency and the role of emergency services – they even went on a trip to the fire station to learn more.

At **Learning for Life Campus**, students in Year 10 have been learning about gang violence and the risks to be aware of, so that they can understand certain behaviours and make better decisions and choices.

In PSHE, our Year 11 students have taken part in lessons on families and relationships. This includes conversations around contraception and pregnancy, as well as the responsibilities and challenges of parenting. These lessons will help children with future decision-making, either in their own relationships or as a parent themselves.

This term has been packed full of exciting experiences within the Personal Development Curriculum at **Horizon Campus** which you can read about in the campus update. All students at Horizon are given opportunities to put what they've learnt into practice to test their independent travel skills as well as their speaking and listening.

DEVELOPING SPIRITUAL, MORAL, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL (SMSC) DEVELOPMENT

As part of students' SMSC development, we help them understand how to be responsible, respectful and active citizens who contribute to society positively.

We do this across the curriculum, in all lessons and across enrichment clubs, sporting activities, assemblies, residentials, wow weeks and trips.



For example, our upcoming wow week will cover National Careers Week (6-11 March) to help students understand how learning can help them decide what jobs and future goals they want to achieve. Other planned events throughout the week will include visits to businesses, role plays, talks from employers and inviting ex-West Lea students back to talk to learners about life after school.

EXPLORING ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Our enrichment activities help children build friendships, social skills, confidence and independence. Activities take place across all sites, before school, at lunchtime and afterschool and include things like dance, music and sport. We also invite children on residentials to introduce them to new environments and test out the skills they've learnt. For example, our Key Stage 2-3 learners recently visited Woodrow House and we can't wait for Key Stage 4 to visit the Isle of Wight and Key Stage 5 to visit Manchester in the Summer term.

We also have three students now taking part in the Enfield Youth Parliament across the Borough. This is an amazing opportunity for Ruslana, Josh and Tyreece, who represent themselves so well and are a brilliant example to the rest of our school community.

EMPLOYER ENCOUNTERS IN THE CURRICULUM

As children move through the school, we continue to support them with careers advice, support and experience. It begins in the Early Years at Meridian and goes through all the way up to Horizon where post-16 learners are supported to gain employment through our Supported Internship Programme.

We know how important it is to give students real world experience and so we also offer them a chance to meet with employers to understand what they do. As part of our Life and Work curriculum, we provide two encounters to all West Lea students each year. For example, Haselbury pupils enjoyed a talk from the Police, while Horizon learners visited a local brewery to hear about the different jobs staff do. Learning for Life pupils have taken part in work experience across retail, local cafés and restaurants. We also support Horizon pupils with mock interviews to help them prepare for their next steps into employment.



All this support helps our students get ready for adulthood and live their lives as independently as possible. West Lea's Careers Plan supports one of our core values – Learning for Life – and more information can be found on our website under the policies section.

Personal development at West Lea is incredibly important. Making sure this is taught in the curriculum and as part of all subjects and lessons means we can give students the very best chance to succeed in life both at, and beyond, school.

West Lea's careers plan is available on our website under the policies section and aligns with one of our core values - Learning for Life
westleaschool.co.uk/our-prospectus/policies/



ANGELA POPLAR
Head of Curriculum Development



National Storytelling week

Earlier this year, West Lea celebrated National Storytelling Week (January 28 - February 5) across the campuses, to encourage children to develop a love for reading.

You'll hear more about Meridian's amazing author visit in the campus update, but the children also brought stories to life by carrying out an investigation of a 'crime' that happened in the playground! Children also developed key skills including creativity and imagination, by inventing their own stories to tell each other.

Haselbury Campus also had a meet and greet with author Tony Dallas. We all loved listening to Tony's stories and joining in with them! Some children even prepared questions for him about what inspired him to be an author. We took away some really interesting ideas to help us with our writing. Leslie Sanders, Brannigan class said, 'I really enjoyed when the author came in, he told us stories and they made us laugh'.

Across our Learning for Life campus, students were visited by Alim, a poet from a company called 'Apples and Snakes'. The organisation helps schools make poetry more interactive and enjoyable.

Alim used song, rhyme, rap and fun to engage our learners in poetry that wouldn't normally be possible for them to explore. Our theme for the term was friendship and belonging, and so the children were tasked with creating poems on this subject through the use of song and movement.

They loved the opportunity to get creative, which helped turn storytelling into something fun. Giving the children the freedom to express themselves, meant some learners were even confident to sing aloud or act out their poem! The experience was really enjoyable and the children would love Alim to visit again.

"Reading is the foundation to learning. It supports children with key skills in order for them to thrive. This includes socially, their ability to communicate effectively and comprehensive skills. A book can help a child to gain a sense of themselves in the world and improve the power of their imagination"

Leader of Learning, Rebecca Gardner





Meridian Campus

We've had a wonderful start to 2023 for children across Meridian Campus.

Across all key stages, pupils have taken part in a variety of curriculum and enrichment experiences to support their personal development.



Last month, children from Years 3-6 visited Woodrow High House in Amersham for a two-night residential. During their stay, they took part in archery and rope swinging, completed a muddy obstacle course, and learnt how to safely toast marshmallows

on an open fire. Children were supported to pack their own suitcases, make their bed, lead their own self-care routines, and make requests at mealtimes. It has been brilliant to see the children learning new skills and growing in confidence.

This month we have also celebrated National Storytelling Week, with a range of events taking place across the campus to help inspire a love of reading. Using books, puppets and storytelling, we've helped pupils practise independent reading. At Springfield, we were joined by author Steve Anthony who spent the day reading stories with Year 5 and 6 pupils and presented the star of the week certificates during a special assembly.



At Dysons Road, parents were invited in to read and share stories. It not only made it a lovely community event, but helped children develop their social communication skills by reading with a range of adults across the week.



EMMA DRIVER
Head of School



Haselbury Campus

We looked forward to welcoming back pupils who seemed to have missed being at school! We've seen them get stuck back into their learning as well as enjoy a range of enrichment opportunities.

One of the most special aspects of West Lea – and central to our 'Learning for Life' value – is the learning that happens outside the classroom. It's important for our pupils to challenge themselves and take what they learn in the classroom, and put it into practice, in real life contexts.

This half term, Hamilton class visited our friends at Latymer Café to learn how transactions take place when buying something. They have been learning about place value in their maths lessons and being able to buy an ice-cream seemed a great way to show this – lucky them!

Some of our pupils also visited the Tate Modern to learn about how to make artwork stand out. This included researching about 3D shapes and lettering using a range of different methods.



In geography, pupils have been learning about extreme weather conditions and the damage they can cause. Some pupils visited the Natural History Museum to find out about the animals (and dinosaurs!) that are now extinct due to extreme weather.



Finally, Year 9 pupils spent half-term creating their own cities using art, exploring how they can make cities 'come alive' using different materials. Sanchez Class went on a mission to find the best way to look at a whole city and ended up in the Shard! They had an amazing time and came back with some very good ideas to create cities to scale.



TOM COLLIER
Head of School





Learning for Life Campus

Personal development and helping students prepare for adulthood is a key part of our curriculum offer at Learning for Life Campus.

As part of this, we support students with a range of activities and programmes to help them prepare for employment, independent living, community inclusion and health. These include:



- A weekly college placement for students to experience vocational taster lessons such as construction, horticulture, media, catering and dance, music and movement.
- Work experience to help them understand what to expect in a work environment.

- PE lessons (both on and off site) for students to try out a whole range of sporting activities. This includes canoeing and other water-based activities at Herts Young Mariners Centre as well as the swimming pool and gym at the Borough sports centres.
- A Prince's Trust qualification through the Achieve programme. This helps students develop teamwork, digital skills, positive wellbeing and healthy eating as well as preparing them for work experience and employment.
- A Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award. After a successful pilot year, all Year 10 students can now take part in a volunteering, skills-based or physical activity to help build their problem

solving, presenting and communicating, and leadership and teamworking skills. This offer helps children achieve a nationally recognised award while learning about themselves and developing a sense of identity. They can then progress to Silver and Gold awards, as it runs from 14-24 years.



We are constantly reviewing provision for our students and welcome feedback from parents and carers on ways to further develop our offer, so our young people can be as prepared as possible for their futures.



CATH GOODWIN
Head of School





Horizon Campus

We are already mid-way through the academic year and there has been a lot going on at Horizon campus!

As part of our Personal Development offer, our KS5 students, pre-interns and interns have all had a variety of opportunities to grow in confidence, build character and develop skills for both life and work. This includes lessons focusing on:

- Current affairs where form groups regularly review what's in the news.
- SkillsBuilder sessions exploring the 8 key skills needed for work (for example teamwork, problem solving, speaking, listening and staying positive).
- Reading to help promote a love of books and knowledge.
- ShoutOuts where groups are encouraged to highlight others around them making a positive contribution.

Our School Council is also a great way for learners to develop their leadership skills. So far this year they've been able to share their views on enrichment activities, trips, behaviour and preparing themselves for adulthood.

With a focus on building independence, KS5 students in Adams and Watson classes recently took part in a tube challenge where they had to build independent travel skills and navigate their way around central London. Learners in Packham, Braun, Wiltshire, Piper and Hawking classes were joined

by DJMC Academy and invited to take the mic and sing or rap to some of their favourite tunes during lunchtime club. Interns have also worked with community organisation, Niburu London, working on a podcasting project to help develop speaking and listening skills.



Other trips included performance workshops with Chickenshed, watching Romeo and Juliet at the Dugdale Centre to bring reading to life, and a visit to KPMG in Canary Wharf to learn about different career pathways.

Finally, it was great to be able to reintroduce residential trips last year and we're looking forward to this year's cohorts exploring other parts of the UK on this year's Summer residential.



KIKA CHARALAMBOUS
Head of School



Enterprise Cooperative Trust

BROOMFIELD SCHOOL JOINS ENTERPRISE COOPERATIVE TRUST

We're very excited to announce that Broomfield School has become the latest member to join Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT). While Broomfield's strong existing relationship with West Lea already brings benefits to students and staff, headteacher Adele Christofi saw how it could create even more opportunities for children. Here, she tells us about the partnership.

What was it about ECT that made you want to become a partner?

Every child deserves the very best outcomes, and we are constantly looking at ways to help our pupils grow into confident and considerate young people, equipped with key life skills. ECT seemed like the next natural step to help us build our offering, without losing the school's identity.

How does it help students and staff?

The partnership means students at both schools can meet, mix, and learn about one another. This helps us create an even more inclusive and welcoming community, celebrating all differences.



We will also be able to share classroom space and make use of all the different resources and activities on offer including running coffee carts, upcycling furniture, and work experience.

Staff will have greater access to training opportunities as well as advice, guidance, and support from other teachers at ECT's partner schools. This is particularly useful when it comes to meeting the needs of students with SEN.

What would you say to other schools considering joining?

I would highly recommend joining the partnership! It's an incredibly exciting opportunity and the more people that come on board, the more chance we have of helping to make a real difference in Enfield.

To read the full article, visit:
enterprisecooperativetrust.org.uk/news



ECT MEMBER, CONEL, AWARDED GOOD OFSTED RATING

We're delighted that ECT member, College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London (CONEL), part of Capital City College Group (CCCG), has been awarded a rating of 'Good' in its latest Ofsted report.

In the report, inspectors praised its close relationships with partners – which include ECT – and the benefits for learners. The curriculum was considered to meet skill priorities, support employers, and provide good progression with learners from all backgrounds engaged in their education.

As a member of ECT, CONEL has access to a network of community connections that support the College's skills education programme and equip students with the skills that meet the needs of the local workforce.

Carl Boyd, Head of Quality & Compliance at CONEL, said:

"We are very proud to be a member of ECT and are delighted that our efforts to enhance our skills education offering via the network have been recognised in our latest Ofsted report. Our belief that every child deserves the very best chance in life is mirrored by ECT's members. Together we are helping pupils develop into well rounded, skilled, and confident young people, and we are very grateful for our partnerships that improve our ability to do so."

For the full story, visit:
enterprisecooperativetrust.org.uk/news

Learning for Life Charity



We're pleased to welcome Mike Taylor, Operations Director to the team at Learning for Life Charity.

Mike joins us from Ace of Clubs, a homelessness charity in South London, where he was the Director of Operations, Fundraising and Charity Shops for six years. Before this, he spent more than 25 years working in corporate finance, accounting and

treasury after studying Accounting and Finance at the University of Lancaster.

Mike was born and bred in Liverpool and is very proud of his hometown. His Liverpudlian DNA means that he has an excellent sense of humour, is hard-working and approachable!

As part of his upcoming work, Mike will be involved in overseeing the fundraising strategy, upcoming events and projects. So, welcome Mike and watch this space!

"I'm very excited to bring my skills to the charity and my new position to help make a difference to the lives of children and young adults in North London. While my target audience at Learning for Life Charity may be different to that of the homeless charity, there are many commonalities – both being much overlooked members of society. I am determined to make a positive contribution and long-lasting change and look forward to meeting the team and wider community."



As part of his upcoming work, Mike will be involved in overseeing the fundraising strategy, upcoming events and projects. One of which is the Life in the Community Charity School project in Edmonton.

The former Girls' Charity School and the adjacent cottage at No.24 Church St., Edmonton - built in 1973 - are Grade II listed and located within the Church St. conservation area. The last 10 years have witnessed the physical deterioration of the school and cottage, with both being placed on the Risk Register.

"Our aim for the project is to sensitively repair the Charity School and cottage to their former glory, and make it a place that serves the local community and reflects an educational heritage."

While Learning for Life Charity has had its eye on the buildings for several years as a way to benefit the community, it wasn't until more recently, that the London Historic Buildings Trust (LHBT) - a building preservation trust - visited the site and agreed we were a suitable partner to restore the buildings.

We're now in a position to progress to the development phase of the project alongside LHBT which is really exciting. We'll keep you updated as the project progresses.



Online safety update

Welcome to our online safety section! Our learners have been busy exploring some really interesting, yet useful topics.

Last term, Year 5 and 6 pupils explored '**How can I look after my mental health when online?**'. They looked at self-image, how this can be changed by computers, and how it doesn't always represent real people. They discussed managing emotions when online and how online behaviour can impact us and others.

Year 8 students looked at '**What can you do to protect yourself online?**' Students looked at privacy settings, learnt what personal information is, what we can share and what's best to keep private. We looked at online transactions and how potential scams can trick people.

Students at Horizon campus discussed '**Why is your digital footprint important?**' to help learners understand that your online profile can affect getting jobs in real life. They also learnt about the law and what it says about things like sexting.



Our lessons and workshops help students recognise what to do if they are online and something upsets or worries them. For example, knowing how to prevent getting involved with posting inappropriate material as well as what to do if something goes wrong. We know that all children online can be vulnerable, so through our curriculum we prepare learners with the essential knowledge and skills they need to be equipped to cope with any issues they may face online.

Every year group will have a half term topic that focuses on online safety. Our lessons offer a range of activities that suit the needs of each learner. These include role play, discussing scenarios, videos, music and songs to name a few.



ANGELA POPLAR
Head of Curriculum Development

Mental health update

Spring is around the corner, the cold, dark days are slowly getting brighter, and we have returned from half-term with fully charged batteries!

To support mental health and wellbeing, our offer at West Lea includes a range of therapies and support methods, including:

- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) – including treatment, support and care for children and adults that for physical or psychological reasons, have difficulties with communicating, eating, drinking and swallowing. Our team can work with mild, moderate or severe learning difficulties, language delay, specific difficulties in producing sounds, cleft lip and palate, stammering, voice disorders and/or selective mutism.
- Different forms of psychotherapy – this can involve listening and discussing how childhood experiences and thoughts affect thinking, feelings, relationships and behaviour (psychodynamic psychotherapy); using art materials to help young people communicate and subconsciously unfold trauma (art psychotherapy); and using physical expression, dance and movement psychotherapy to explore feelings, which can be helpful for group work and classes.

Proactive Listening is also important when it comes to wellbeing as it helps identify and understand what others are really saying.

Here are some top tips for proactive listening:

1. Face the speaker and use eye contact (not too little, not too much)
2. Look out for non-verbal cues (e.g. body language)
3. Don't interrupt unless necessary
4. Listen without judging or jumping to conclusions
5. Don't plan what to say next before they have finished
6. Show that you are listening by acknowledging or nodding every so often
7. Try not to impose opinions or solutions
8. Stay focused on the conversation
9. Ask questions without going off topic
10. Summarise at the end to check you got it right

Please ask the Therapeutic Support & Wellbeing Team for help if you're in need. Pupils, parents, carers and staff can come to us. We will try our best to support as much as we can.



JOSE NEGRIN

Head of Therapeutic Support & Wellbeing



West Lea in the news

SUPPORTED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Over the past few months, you may have seen West Lea featured in local media for the work we do through our Supported Internship Programme. Most recently, our partnership with Greggs, where three of our young people were offered permanent employment following successful internships.

You can read more about it in
InYourArea and EssexTV!



Our Supported Internship Programme is a one year full-time study programme for 16 - 24 year olds who have a Statement for Special Educational Needs or an Education and Health Care Plan. Alongside a job coach, students will be offered a work placement with a local employer - that matches their interests - and will be supported in gaining the skills and settling into their working environment. At the end of every internship, the aim is for each individual to be offered permanent employment and we will help as much or as little is needed, to make that a reality.



I never thought she could achieve all the things that she has done. Yes it was a bit scary, but now I know that she can be much more independent in life.

Parent, 2022

So far, more than 80% of our students on the programme have been offered permanent employment, and we have achieved a 90% workplace retention rate. This is something we're incredibly proud of as it's far above the average and is key to tackling the overall employment rate for people with a learning disability, which has fallen to 4.8% (BASE UK).

The programme not only helps young people gain employment, but also helps businesses boost morale, increase their productivity and provide more opportunities for young people.

We're currently on the lookout for more students and employers to take part in our programme.

**For more information, please visit
www.westleasip.co.uk**



My experience has been good on this course so far because I am learning lots of different things... for example, how to present myself and budgeting.

Intern, 2022



Our campuses



Dysons Road

174 Dysons Road, Edmonton,
London, N18 2DS

Springfield Road

Springfield Road,
New Southgate,
N11 1RR



Haselbury Campus

Haselbury Road, Edmonton,
London, N9 9TU



Broomfield School

Wilmer Way, N14 7HY

Cyprus Road,

Edmonton,
London, N9 9PG



St Mary's

Lawrence Road,
Edmonton,
London, N18 2HN



Key term dates 2023

SPRING TERM 2023

Every Wednesday at 9.15am

Coffee Morning at Meridian Campus, Dysons and Springfield

Every Thursday at 9.30am

Coffee Morning at Haselbury Campus

Monday 6th – Friday 10th March

National Careers Week

Monday 13th – Friday 17th March

British Science Week

Wednesday 15th March

Hamilton Class trip to Jungle Falls Adventure Golf

Friday 17th March

Comic Relief

Sanchez Class trip to Shaftesbury Theatre

Monday 23rd March

Start of Ramadan

Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th March

Learning For Life Charity - Jumble Sale at Haselbury Campus

Monday 27th March

World Autism Acceptance Day

Wednesday 29th March

9.30am – Open Morning at Meridian Campus, Dysons Road

Thursday 30th March

9.30am – Open Morning at Meridian Campus, Springfield Road

Friday 31st March

Last day of Spring Term

Monday 3rd April – Friday 14th April

Spring Break – School closed to learners

SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17th April

INSET – School closed to learners

Tuesday 18th April

Start of Summer Term – School reopens

Friday 21st April

Eid

Monday 1st May

Bank Holiday – School closed to learners

Monday 8th May

Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation – School closed to learners

Thursday 11th May

Meridian Campus – Passport Celebration Event

Monday 15th May – Friday 19th May

Mental Health awareness week

Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June

Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 5th June

School reopens

Friday 7th July

Last day of Summer Term for Year 11 learners

Wednesday 12th July

Parent Carer Progress Reviews – School to close early for learners

Friday 21st July

Last day of Summer Term

AUTUMN TERM 2023/24

Monday 4th September

Start of Autumn Term – School reopens



community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**