

# Newsletter July 2023

**Volume 2 | Issue 5**



# Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

**A very warm welcome to the final newsletter of the 2022-23 academic year, and what a year it's been!**

As we look back, there have been many milestones and achievements including:

**Rolling out our new curriculum** – balancing academic teaching with broad knowledge and experience, helping pupils develop talent, build skills and prepare for the world of work. This is to ensure every pupil feels

supported and has the opportunity to discover and pursue their passions and live independent and happy lives.

**Developing our approach to relationships and behaviour** – consistently applying the school's rules to 'be ready, be safe, be kind'. Positive relationships are fundamental to positive behaviour and so our policy sets out what is expected from staff and pupils, as well as demonstrating empathy and understanding at all times.

**Kick-starting our enrichment offer** – providing young people with experiences that broaden their horizons and enrich their lives. It's been refreshing seeing our young people out and about again after Covid-19, getting involved in school clubs, trips and residentials, travel training and work experience.

On top of that, we remain an outstanding school thanks to the efforts of our whole school community. We believe our approach to developing and supporting staff and pupils has been key to this – something you can read about in our 'Reflections and celebrations' section of the newsletter.

As we prepare for the new academic year, it's important to remember that we remain committed to going the extra mile and allowing our pupils the 'full experience'. Despite the challenges that may lie ahead (and the feeling that sometimes it's easier to turn back), the more we push ourselves, the more we serve others, the more we flourish. It's our responsibility to encourage that mentality to go a bit further down the road – beyond the basics and towards 'extra' ordinary. We continue to do exactly that so that everyone has an equal chance in life.

Finally, I would like to thank the wonderful staff at West Lea, for all they have done, and continue to do, to support each other and their pupils. We simply couldn't be the warm, welcoming place we are without you. And to our parents and carers, thank you for your ongoing support, we are hugely grateful to you and hope you are looking forward to a restful and enjoyable summer break.

See you in September!

Best wishes,



**PAUL QUINN**  
CEO

community  
**kindness**  
**learning for life**  
innovation inclusion

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## West Lea School

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# Reflections and celebrations

As the school term comes to a close, it's the perfect time to reflect on the year and the achievements we have seen along the way. We are so grateful for the support of our parents and carers, staff, and wider community for not only helping us remain an outstanding school, but most importantly, making sure every child has the confidence, skills and happiness to make friends, live independently and gain employment.

Our 'magic formula' has been key to achieving this: flourishing people = flourishing pupils = flourishing communities. But what does flourishing mean and how do we achieve it?

Flourishing is about living a good life and enjoying higher levels of wellbeing. Whilst 'a good life' will look different to each of us, American psychologist, Martin Seligman, found there are five building blocks that help us to flourish: positive emotion, engagement, relationships, meaning and accomplishment. He calls this the PERMA model.

Throughout the year, we've been finding different ways to bring PERMA to life, helping our people and pupils develop techniques in each area. The magic formula is a reminder that our people need to flourish if they're to live out values, set examples and support our pupils. We think of it as putting on our own oxygen masks before we help others



## SUPPORTING OUR STAFF

We started work with our leaders, helping them to understand what it means to flourish and the important role they play in supporting others. After all, if we want our pupils to be their very best, we need our leaders and staff - our 'flourishing people' - to show them the way by displaying exemplary behaviours and mindsets.

Our leadership development programme has been central to the growth, engagement and wellbeing of our people. To achieve our ambition of being a great place to work, we support all our people to learn, develop and engage, so they can accomplish their goals and bring our vision, mission and values to life.

School staff are typically mission driven, with a strong sense of vocation and moral purpose. However, it's the job of school leaders to remove the barriers that inevitably get in the way and create a deeper sense of purpose and meaning in the everyday. Expressing this becomes infectious, spreading joy to others.

Our hard work is paying off. For example, we've seen the impact in our employee engagement levels, which continue to increase far beyond national averages - a fact we're incredibly proud of.







"Teachers are highly attuned to the learning needs of each pupil in the class, and support is tailored to the specific needs and circumstances of each pupil."

**OFSTED REPORT 2023**







## SUPPORTING OUR PUPILS

We constantly strive to help our pupils achieve, with teachers praised for recognising and supporting the needs of every pupil. This is not only through our highly individualised curriculum but through our pastoral and careers development, behaviour policies and classroom learning.

Our curriculum provides a broad knowledge base that helps learners discover and nurture a wide range of talents, alongside personal development that inspires independence and prepares them for the world of work. From classroom-based learning and trips, to community visits and work experience, this combination helps develop pathways for all of our learners so that nobody is left behind.

Careers education has also been a key thread that weaves all the way through a child's West Lea journey. Pupils set goals from an early age, are exposed to a wide range of employers through talks, fun activities and taster sessions, and hear from ex-students who have gained employment, all helping to inspire our learners and raise aspirations. Students also gain entrepreneurial skills by running enterprise projects, including our West Co tuck shop. All this preparation and skill-building has resulted in 80% of our learners gaining meaningful employment, which is fantastic to see.

As a school, we never want to limit or place ceilings on what our children can achieve. While they may face challenges along the way, we also witness the success and achievements of our young people. No matter how big or small the wins, it is truly inspirational to watch the growth within our school community.

With a clear vision, our people present the very best versions of themselves and pupils naturally progress and flourish, which altogether, positively impacts our families and the wider community.



**MELANIE BIGNOLD &  
RENEE FLOURENTZOU**  
Directors of Education





"The way the school supports pupils' personal development is exceptional."

**OFSTED REPORT 2023**



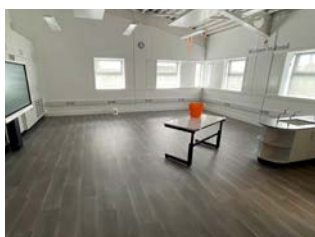




## Meridian Campus

I would like to start this month's newsletter by thanking our amazing children, families and friends of Meridian Campus for your support this academic year.

Following our big Meridian Move last summer, our classrooms transformed into exciting and inspirational places that we love working in. An incredible amount of work went into creating enriching classrooms and outdoor learning environments and the children are happy exploring their new learning environments. We are so grateful for your help as we know the transition was a huge barrier for some children to overcome.



### DYSONS ROAD

Children at Dysons Road have enjoyed getting creative and learning outside, as well as taking part in a range of experiences across the year including visiting ducklings, playing at Little City Enfield, meeting firefighters and taking part in an African Drumming workshop. They are now getting ready to transition to their new classes and teachers.



### SPRINGFIELD ROAD

Learning has been focused around children gaining an informed and balanced view on world events, beliefs and values of others. This included celebrating awareness days, meeting authors, celebrating events such as Ramadan and taking a trip to Kidzania to inspire children to think about the roles and jobs they might want to do when they're older.

As we approach the summer break, it's important to consider raising awareness of hidden disabilities. Living with a non-visible disability can make daily life more demanding, but it can also be difficult for others to identify or understand the challenges. Wearing a sunflower lanyard can help - you may even receive special access to fun fairs and events!

**More information can be found at:**  
[www.hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/uk/for-you](http://www.hiddendisabilitiesstore.com/uk/for-you)

Finally, thank you to our Year Six children for being brilliant role models. We wish them happiness and fun when they transition to Haselbury or their new school in September.



**EMMA DRIVER**  
Head of School







## Haselbury Campus

With the academic year coming to an end, it is always nice to reflect on the lovely events that have taken place at Haselbury Campus.



For example, our trip to Paradise Wildlife Park enabled pupils to explore parts of the curriculum including learning about different climates in geography and the life cycles of animals in science. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and the dinosaur exhibit was definitely the most popular part!



Fox Class visited London's Science Museum to explore its Wonderlab, an interactive and immersive sensory world, as part of their science lessons. The trip was designed to help pupils answer the big question 'what is electricity and energy?'. They discovered ways energy can be created, including from the sun and sea. Toby from Fox Class said that it was 'the best trip ever'!

Soon our Year 9 pupils will be leaving to start the next chapter of their journey at our Learning for Life Campus. We've been helping pupils get ready for this transition with visits to the campus and the chance to meet their new teachers. Alfie in Year 9 said he 'cannot wait to move to Learning for Life' and is 'looking forward to college!'. We're very excited for our Year 9 graduation on Friday 14th July and would like to welcome all parents of Year 9 to attend and celebrate their children's successes.

I would like to thank all our parents and carers for their unwavering support throughout the year. It really has helped us support your child to the best of our abilities. I wish you all a safe and restful summer and cannot wait to see everyone again in September.



**TOM COLLIER**  
Head of School





## Learning for Life Campus

**As my tenure as Head of School for the Learning for Life campus comes to an end, I look back with happy memories of my time at the campus and such immense pride in all that has been achieved.**

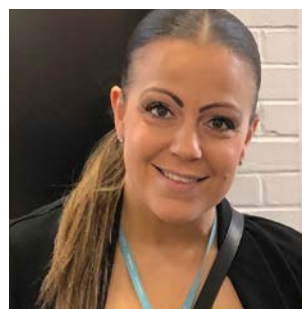
One of my most memorable moments was leading on the merge of the three separate campus sites in September 2021 to create the new provision at the Learning for Life campus and for the first time ever having all the Key Stage 4 students housed on one site. Although students are only at the campus for two years, the amount of hard work, progress and achievement in every child is truly remarkable as they start their journey preparing for adulthood.



Our recent Ofsted report highlighted some wonderful achievements this year, including our Year 10 students participating in the Duke of Edinburgh award, drama performances, enrichment opportunities, the range of subjects

studied and the quality of teaching that students receive on a daily basis. However, what resonates with me most is the wonderful relationships that have been formed between staff, students and families. This partnership powerfully illustrates how the West Lea values of kindness and community permeate all aspects of our daily lives and have sustained us throughout the school year.

As we begin the process of saying goodbye to our Year 11 students and prepare to welcome our new Year 9s, all members of our community should look back with great satisfaction on all that has been achieved this year. Although I am incredibly sad to leave the wonderful Learning for Life community, I feel absolutely reassured that I am leaving the



campus in Ms Skarpellis' safe hands and can't wait to see how it continues to develop in the future.

Ms Skarpellis has been teaching for almost 19 years. She joined West Lea School more than two years ago, and her passion for working in a school stems from a love of teaching and supporting learners to achieve their goals. Ms Skarpellis is really looking forward to this new journey at Learning for Life Campus and we can't wait to welcome her!



**CATH GOODWIN**  
Head of School





## Horizon Campus

**The end of the academic year brings many celebrations and fun events which thankfully we've managed to enjoy alongside sunnier weather this month.**

For example, Horizon's Summer Hang Out Club has been a hit and has provided students with activities to take part in both indoors and outside. This included cooking with Carline, film club, football skills coaching, gaming truck visits and more. The clubs have been such a hit, we will look to run more next year!



Post 16 students planned and ran a Summer Fair at Haselbury campus, including manning stalls and activities for younger students to take part in including; hook a duck, penalty shootout, coconut shy, cupcake decorating and probably the most popular, splat the teacher! As part of this community project they were able to use their creative, problem solving, marketing, communication and leadership skills.

There's been plenty of other achievements to celebrate this term too. It's been lovely to hear about the successes of this year's interns as they've been offered jobs and have begun their transition

from education to employment. In KS5 it's also been great to learn about students being offered college placements where they will continue with their studies next year. We would like to wish all Horizon leavers the very best and hope to welcome them back in the future whether they return for a supported internship or as part of our alumni – at West Lea we love to hear what students have been up to, so do keep in touch!

I'd like to say a big thank you to Mr Gibson and Marvin for organising a Quiz night fundraiser. It was a huge success, with staff bringing a little competitive spirit to school, and all proceeds going towards the KS5 residential and a graduation event for interns.

We are super proud of all the work that takes place at Horizon campus, and staff have enjoyed time together to reflect on the comments within our latest Ofsted report. The work we do day in day out really does change lives for the better, and we look forward to continuing this as we welcome new students from September.



**KIKA CHARALAMBOUS**  
Head of School



# Enterprise Cooperative Trust

**Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) hosted a 'Young People and Employers' event in the House of Commons on 4 July, welcoming MPs and Lords to hear about its work and the importance of schools, community organisations and businesses working together to provide opportunities for more young people.**



Members of ECT, including West Lea School (founders), Laurel Park School, Orchardside School, Chickenshed Theatre, The College of Haringey, Enfield and North East London, and Co-op spoke about the work being done in Enfield to break down barriers to employment and boost aspirations. As part of this, students shared their own experiences of the challenges they've faced, and how different pathways have helped them overcome diversity, rediscover hope, gain independence and in some cases, secure employment. Speeches even included a rap from a Chickenshed performer, who delivered his personal story, 'a letter to my younger self' which blew the audience away!



Chair of ECT, Janet Leach, emphasised the importance of a community minded approach so that all students can have a bright future. Part of ECT's success is recognising that alternative pathways can be just as successful as, if not more than, more traditional academic routes.

This includes work experience, community work, internships and supported internships, apprenticeships and more. These opportunities help widen access to as many children as possible and help them gain the confidence to build skills, address employer needs, achieve independence, and become valued and resilient citizens.

**Janet Leach MBE, Chair of Enterprise Cooperative Trust, said:**

"As a collaboration between education providers, employers and charitable partners, ECT's approach to employability exemplifies embracing difference, widening opportunities and access, and addressing the skill gaps in the current labour market. Whilst the Trust is currently based in Enfield, we're confident that its approach can be adapted and applied in other areas to tackle the workforce challenges seen across the country and ensure a greater number of young people are employed, in turn boosting the economy.

"We've had a brilliant reception and lots of positive responses already and look forward to working with policymakers and influencers to shape the agenda and help as many young people as possible."

**Nicholas, one of the young people supported by ECT who spoke at the event, said:**

"It was so exciting to come to the House of Commons and share my experiences of ECT with MPs. I am very proud to represent ECT and hopefully sharing my story will help more young people realise their dreams and know that with the right support and opportunities, they can really make it happen. Through my supported internship, I have been able to develop useful skills and gain so much confidence. Because of ECT and Co-op, I understand fully what the world of work is really like and know the value I bring to my employer."





# Learning for Life Charity

This summer, there are several ways you can support the charity and help raise funds. Here are three ideas to get you started.

## #1 SHOP WITH US

Our two charity shops - Life on the Green and Life in the Town - are bursting with quality donations. Visit us to pick up everyday bargains, gorgeous gifts and upcycled furniture.

## #2 VOLUNTEER WITH US

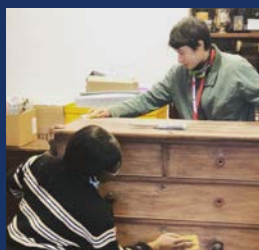
If you're looking for work experience, volunteering in one of our shops might be just what you need to gain confidence and skills.

Visit [www.learningforlifecharity.co.uk/volunteer](http://www.learningforlifecharity.co.uk/volunteer) to find out more.

## #3 HAVE FUN WITH US

Grab a ticket or a table for our September Quiz night, which we're co-hosting with local charities, Family Based Solutions and the Platinum Academy of Performing Arts Hardship Fund. Details in the advert below.

Every purchase, volunteering hour and fundraiser helps us provide 'Learning for Life' opportunities for local learners with special educational needs and disabilities, and those who have been affected by illness and poverty. We really appreciate your support.



# CHARITY QUIZ

## Night

TEAMS OF 6

**30 September | From 6.30pm**  
**At the Millfield Theatre**

Fundraising for Learning for Life Charity, FBS and Platinum Performing Arts Hardship Fund

- An interactive quiz night
- Doner or halloumi wrap and chips
- Live DJ with after party
- Free onsite parking

**Ticket price**  
**£20**  
PER PERSON

**Book now** [admin@familybasedsolutions.org.uk](mailto:admin@familybasedsolutions.org.uk)



## + PRIZE DRAW AND AUCTION

### PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS AND HELP LOCAL CHARITIES

Sponsor a table at the quiz, or donate a prize or auction lot, and we'll promote your business on the evening and across the social media channels of our three charities.

**FOR SPONSORSHIP DETAILS CONTACT:** [ayse@familybasedsolutions.org.uk](mailto:ayse@familybasedsolutions.org.uk)

# Pastoral update

**We are very excited to announce that Cath Goodwin will become West Lea's Head of Pastoral Development. Here she tells us a little bit about herself and her vision for the new role at the school.**

I joined West Lea School in 2019 as Assistant Headteacher after working for 23 years in a local secondary school and have been Head of School for the Learning for Life Campus since 2020.

Growing up, living and working in the Borough of Enfield has meant I am acutely aware of the challenges that exist for young people and families and of the additional vulnerabilities children with Special Educational Needs face as they navigate the real and online world. This new position to lead on Pastoral Care across the whole of West Lea School is a very exciting opportunity for me and the school and will enable us to bring together the areas of safeguarding, attendance, behaviour, medical, therapies and parent support as part of our holistic offer to our students and families.

I am incredibly fortunate to be supported in my role by an experienced team of individuals who will be familiar to you through work undertaken at campus level to support students and families and



via partnership working with a range of services from the local authority.

'Cura Personalis' is a Latin term coined by the Jesuits, a religious order, to describe 'care of the individual' or care for the whole person. Having spent the first half of my career working in a Jesuit school, 'Cura Personalis' is the guiding principle that has guided me throughout my career and one that eloquently outlines our vision for this key area of school life.

Despite the enormous growth West Lea School has undergone in recent years, the personalised care for each individual child's needs is something that has remained consistent and will be able to be further developed through the merging of these key areas of school life into the Personal Development team. There will be a very clear focus on each child's strengths and potential as they make the journey towards independence and adulthood as well as working with parents and carers to further develop our support offer to our families.

I am very excited to begin this journey and look forward to continuing working alongside all the amazing students and staff that make up our school community.



**CATH GOODWIN**  
**Head of Pastoral**  
**Development**



"There will be a very clear focus on each child's strengths and potential as they make the journey towards independence and adulthood"

**CATH GOODWIN**

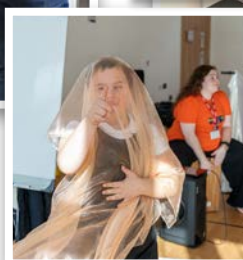




# 2022-23 in pictures







# Our campuses



## **Dysons Road**

174 Dysons Road, Edmonton,  
London, N18 2DS

## **Springfield Road**

Springfield Road,  
New Southgate,  
N11 1RR



## **Haselbury**

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 - 2024

## AUTUMN TERM 2023

**Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th September**  
INSET Days - School closed to learners

**Wednesday 6th September**  
School reopens to learners

**Friday 8th September**  
Year 8 and Year 9 Immunisations

**Monday 18th September**  
Learning for Life Campus and CONEL  
school photographs

**Tuesday 19th September**  
Haselbury Campus school photographs

**Wednesday 20th September**  
Parent and Carer Meet, Greet and  
Target Setting meetings

**Wednesday 4th October**  
INSET Day - School closed to learners

**Thursday 5th October**  
Meridian Campus, Springfield Road Open  
Morning 9.30am

**Monday 23rd October - Friday 27th October**  
Half Term - School closed to learners

**Monday 30th October**  
Start of Autumn Term 2 - School reopens

**Wednesday 1st November**  
Meridian Campus, Dysons Road  
Open Morning 10.30am

**Thursday 2nd November**  
Meridian Campus, Springfield Road  
Open Morning 9.30am

**Wednesday 6th December**  
INSET Day - School closed to learners

**Thursday 7th December**  
Meridian Campus, Springfield Road  
Open Morning 9.30am

**Thursday 21st December**  
Last day of Autumn Term

**Friday 22nd December - Friday 5th January**  
Christmas Break - School closed to learners

## SPRING TERM 2024

**Monday 8th January**  
INSET Day - School closed to learners

**Tuesday 9th January**  
Start of Spring Term 1 - School reopens

**Wednesday 10th January**  
Parent and Carer Progress Review meetings

**Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February**  
Half Term - School closed to learners

**Monday 19th February**  
Start of Spring Term 2 - School reopens

**Thursday 28th March**  
Last day of Spring Term

**Friday 29th March - Friday 12th April**  
Spring Term Holiday - School closed to learners

## SUMMER TERM 2024

**Monday 15th April**  
Start of Summer Term 1 - School reopens

**Wednesday 17th April**  
Parent and Carer Progress Review meetings

**Monday 6th May**  
Bank Holiday - School closed to learners

**Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May**  
Half Term - School closed to learners

**Monday 3rd June**  
Start of Summer Term 2 - School reopens

**Wednesday 10th July**  
Parent and Carer Year End Review meetings

**Wednesday 24th July**  
Last day of Summer Term

**Thursday 25th July - 30th August**  
Summer Break - School closed to learners



community  
**kindness**  
**learning for life**  
innovation **inclusion**