

Newsletter October 2023



Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of the new academic year, and what a start to term we've had! Our learners have settled into their classes incredibly well, and we have loved seeing lots of happy faces around school.

As we embark on another year together, West Lea continues to champion its vision of believing in a world where everyone can flourish. To do this, we must keep breaking down barriers and helping learners overcome challenges, building their independence and helping them succeed within and beyond the classroom.

We represent this both through our branding and the role we play in being a kind, inclusive and innovative partner to our learners, our families and our community. We hold the hands of our young people and families as they learn and experience everything West Lea has to offer. But we also encourage them to go that one step further, despite the challenges, and push for the extraordinary – with the reassurance that we will be cheering them on every step of the way. That relationship is at the core of everything we do.



That is why our logo encompasses a heart, formed by two people holding hands and supporting each other. This represents the relationship between our school and the community, the learner and their family, and our staff and students. The heart also symbolises love, representing the respect and kindness we show toward one another, to cultures and to religions. It keeps us going through the tough times and inspires us to be there for one another.

I am looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year has in store for us, and I know that together, we will continue to create flourishing environments for our learners so that everyone has an equal chance in life.

Best wishes,

PAUL QUINN
CEO

community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**

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Building relationships, building opportunities

Our learners are at the heart of everything we do.

But to help them become the very best version of themselves, with the confidence, independence and skills to flourish in all areas of their lives, West Lea's main focus is on developing the people who support them.

That is why we created our 'magic' formula.

Flourishing people = flourishing pupils = flourishing communities.

If we want our pupils to flourish, we need to start with our leaders and people. By encouraging them to lead by example, displaying positive behaviours and mindsets, our learners will not only mirror these behaviours, but will gain far more academically and socially. The result? Successfully breaking down barriers and preparing pupils to contribute positively to their communities and make a meaningful and impactful difference to society.



All this relies on the strong relationships and partnerships that take place in our school and the wider community.

For our people, this means helping staff grow, encouraging them to lead and develop their teams and be the very best they can be. Looking at our school development projects, this includes supporting teams to learn, think about their career development, what they want to achieve and how we can get them there. Prioritising our people means we will be in a much stronger position to meet our learners' needs and create a place where everyone can flourish.

It's also about creating pathways for everyone. This involves focusing on personal development and making sure that it's at the heart of every campus, key stage and curriculum domain. For example, our new site for Horizon Campus being developed will include a new ICT suite, sports hall and kitchen facilities. This will mean we can offer far more opportunities for our Key Stage 5 students and help them build personal and career development skills including how to cook food, develop catering and hospitality skills and understand more about nutrition.

Over the next year, another project we will be focusing on is creating a school-wide vocational offer, so that we can provide greater opportunities and offer the full student experience for everyone. This will be made possible through the relationships we have built with our community partners, including Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) and Learning for Life Charity. With more schools joining ECT – including Laurel Park and Orchardside – it means we can share more resource, support personal and career development, and offer more vocational options.

Other partnerships this year include a project with Voice 21, a charity working with West Lea to support our learners with communicating in the classroom,



and how they can communicate for themselves. This work is key in helping all learners know how they can contribute to bigger projects. For example, our two students at West Lea – who are part of our Youth Representative Council – will now be joining the 'Life in the Community' project taking place in Edmonton. Representing our learners, our two students will be contributing to important decisions and feeding into architect design, marketing and filming opportunities.

Building relationships are a central ingredient in our magic formula. By supporting the development of our people and learners, we can deliver the full experience and create more pathways and meaningful opportunities for everyone, so that no one gets left behind.



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



"Prioritising our people means we will be in a much stronger position to meet our learners' needs and create a place where everyone can flourish."





Meridian Campus

It's been a great start to the academic year at Meridian Campus!

Children across our sites at Dysons Road and Springfield have settled into their new classes well and have enjoyed a large range of curriculum and enrichment activities this half term.



After our morning routines, each child takes part in a phonics and reading lesson. They learn through play, exploring sounds, words and phrases using phonics and then put them to the test in their writing and English lessons.

Our second lesson of the day is Maths. This half term children enjoyed exploring number and place value. We use a variety of resources and different activities to help them understand and develop their Mathematical skills.



The rest of our learning day is enriched with a wide range of curriculum subjects taught using multi-sensory techniques, play-led learning and real-life experiences. This helps us bring the curriculum to life. We have had Elena and Zoe teaching music once a week, which the children and adults love!

Children have also been learning about food types and keeping healthy in science. They have enjoyed smelling, feeling and cutting vegetables. This is a key life skill that develops food tolerance and fine motor skills within the catering and science curriculum.

We also had a special visitor this month! Our brilliant Safer Schools Officer, PC Andy, came and spoke to our Year 5 and 6 children about how to keep safe online. The talk was a great success, and PC Andy even allowed the children to look at his car and police equipment, which they loved!



Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to Vistry Construction which is currently developing the Meridian Water housing and community spaces. The organisation kindly donated resources and time to transform the outdoor spaces at Dysons Road. The children love the new colourful fencing and garden area. It's a big thumbs up and thank you from everyone at Meridian Campus.



EMMA DRIVER
Head of School





Haselbury Campus

Time flies when you're having fun! It doesn't feel like only a few weeks ago that we welcomed our pupils back from their summer break.

Since then, we've assessed our pupils for Phonics/ Reading and Maths groups, started our extra-curricular provision, and begun the important work of building strong, meaningful relationships with our pupils.

Our new Year 9s are already very excited about their next step of education at Learning for Life Campus, next year. Many of them have already enjoyed 'Independent Lunch' on a Thursday and Friday, which involves our pupils travelling outside of the school and choosing their own lunch in our community. This has become a popular initiative that promotes opportunities for our pupils to socialise, practice handling money and keeping safe in our community.



Some of our Year 7s have been very lucky to have our friends from Brimsdown Primary School teaching them British Sign Language (BSL). This has provided a valuable experience for our pupils to learn a new language as well as support their communication with others at school.



Later in the term, our pupils will be invited to both Halloween and Winter discos. This initiative started last year, as a result of our pupils wanting more opportunities to socialise with their peers in the evening.

It's been an exciting start to term for pupils, but we also want to remind parents and carers - don't forget we have a Coffee Morning every Thursday at 9:30am and it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible come and enjoy a cuppa and share ideas!



TOM COLLIER
Head of School





Learning for Life Campus

Here at Learning for Life Campus, we develop the learner's journey, building on the great work at Meridian and Haselbury Campus, and help prepare our young people for adulthood, whilst continuing to develop their academic and life skills.

All learners continue to enjoy a full timetable at Key Stage 4 that includes English, Maths, Science, Computing, Knowledge of the World (History, Geography and Religious Education), Creative (Art, Music and Drama), and Personal Development (PE, PSHE and Life and Work – which includes Design and Technology, Catering, Citizenship and Careers).



We structure and sequence learning so that learners build on existing knowledge and skills step-by-step to help them reach their potential. Many subjects will finish with exams and controlled assessments over the course of the two years they spend with us.

Our young people can work towards and take Pre-Entry and Functional skills qualifications in

English and Maths. Many will also take WJEC Entry level qualifications in Knowledge of the World, Science and Computing. Through our personal development subjects, pupils will also undertake the Duke of Edinburgh Award and Princess Trust Achieve programmes. We help pupils look ahead to Key Stage 5 and beyond, whether they're continuing their journey at West Lea or venturing further afield.

As well as this, all learners get access to a day at college, either Barnet and Southgate or CONEL, developing their vocational skills. At College they have the option of studying subjects such as construction, horticulture, media and ICT.

Throughout their journey with us at Learning for Life campus, we make sure that our young people have the opportunities and experiences to learn new skills and constantly build knowledge – all while having fun along the way!



THESPINA SKARPELLIS
Head of School





Horizon Campus

As West Lea's post 16 provision continues to grow, we've welcomed more than 100 learners to Horizon Campus this academic year.

Our new KS5 form classes have had a great start to the year as they join college full time and continue their 'preparing for adulthood' journey. As part of the Horizon campus expansion, we are extending our offer to 16–18-year olds, as we move to a two-year Sixth Form for all. If you're currently in Year 12 and have enrolled onto a one-year programme but would like to take up this offer, please ensure you let us know by responding to our recent letter to secure your place.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all Sixth Form students to a newly refurbished site in Ponders End from September 2024. The site, which is currently under construction, will feature eight refurbished classrooms and some fantastic facilities including a training kitchen, media suite, fitness studio and study space/library and common room.



We're incredibly excited and will share more about this with you as the work progresses over the next few months.

Our very popular employability programmes have also grown this year with just under 60 pre-interns/interns joining

for support with their transition into employment. Since joining they've already been learning some key life and work skills through a series of induction activities including visits to workplaces such as KPMG, Stephen James, Asda and Dunelm and charitable organisation SmartWorks.



Interns were also able to meet employers at the recent annual Supported Internship Job Fair where they got to ask about work placements on offer with some of our partners including Enfield Council, Rapport, Greggs, Plastic Pictures and many more.

We're looking forward to seeing the progress of all our post 16 learners this year both in and out of the classroom!



KIKA CHARALAMBOUS
Head of School

Enterprise Cooperative Trust

This month, we're shining a light on two of our newest partners within Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) who we are delighted to have on board. Both schools share the same commitment and dedication to providing the very best opportunities for young people in Enfield and we're excited to work more closely together over the coming months to benefit learners and staff and together, help create a more inclusive community:

LAUREL PARK SCHOOL



Laurel Park School, based on the site previously known as Broomfield School, represents a foundation of healthy and strong relationships

between staff and students, allowing the uniqueness and individual talents of every young person to be nurtured and celebrated.

With a new vision and curriculum, high expectations of behaviour and approaches to quality first teaching, everyone at Laurel Park School is excited to demonstrate why this school should be a top choice within our local community.

Reflecting the values of ECT – hope, positivity, justice and courage – Laurel Park School strives to support not just the academic success of its students but the development of the whole child to enable them to thrive in the 21st century world.

The ethos of the new school is grounded in its core values of integrity, excellence, determination and ambition; empowering all students to succeed in everything they do.

At ECT, we are very excited to see and support the opportunities and experiences of Laurel Park School students as the school year progresses.



ORCHARDSIDE SCHOOL



ORCHARDSIDE
SCHOOL

Our latest partner to join ECT is Orchardside School, a mixed school in Enfield, supporting students aged 11 to 16, who for a variety of reasons, have experienced a less than positive experience at mainstream school.

Orchardside provides personalised learning pathways to help learners re-engage with their learning, regain confidence and resilience, and ultimately reintegrate back into mainstream school when they are ready.

The school stood out to ECT because of its values – respect, resilience and responsibility – and its determination to help students flourish and succeed, regardless of their circumstances. Providing a non-judgemental and supportive environment for students and their families, the school not only reflects high quality tailored education, but offers a nurturing, reflective and purposeful environment to help learners feel safe to learn and grow.

Similar to ECT, Orchardside challenges its students to take responsibility for their learning in a way that encourages positive behaviour and promotes independent learning, which ultimately encourages greater belief in themselves.

ECT exists to create equal opportunities for all young people in Enfield, and Orchardside is a prime example of doing this successfully. Together, we will support learners in becoming mature, successful young adults who are truly prepared for today's world.

Learning for Life Charity

It's an exciting time for the charity with key people changes and projects underway.

We'd first like to thank our outgoing chairman, Father Nigel Asbridge, who has done a fantastic job steering the board of trustees. His commitment, energy and experience have ensured we have firm foundations in place. Nigel is passing the baton on to Renee Flourentzou who, alongside being a charity trustee, is director of education at West Lea – so it's safe to say we're in very good hands!

We'd also like to announce that local charity advocate, Panay Richards, has joined us in the role of Operations Director. With an extensive background in charity and project management, Panay will play a key role in the next stage of our growth. Deeply committed to improving life in the borough, Panay also volunteers as a trustee of a local charity that supports families in need.

Panay is working closely with our partners at the London Historic Buildings Trust as our project to renovate the Grade II listed building on Church Street, Edmonton, picks up pace.

Currently in the planning phase, we're excited to be turning this vacant landmark into a vibrant community hub with a cafe and meeting space. Once complete, we'll be able to provide high quality work experience and training for young people, furthering our efforts in helping them into employment.

To keep in touch with this and other key initiatives, please bookmark our web page: **www.learningforlifecharity.co.uk** where you can sign up for our email newsletter.



Parents/Carers keeping in touch

As many of you will know, we are adopting the School Gateway app to help streamline communications.

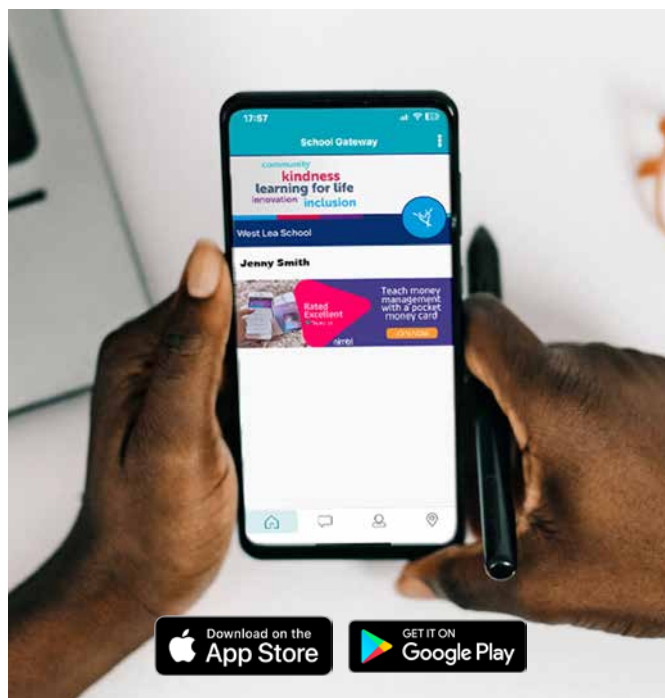
Using the School Gateway app means you'll receive letters and notifications straight away, and no more lost messages as they will all be in one place.

We are grateful to those of you who have already downloaded the app. If you haven't yet got the app, we've set up a page on the website with full instructions **westleaschool.co.uk/school-gateway/**

If you prefer not to use the app, there's also a web based version that you can log into from any computer or mobile device.

If you have any issues or questions, please contact the office on **020 8807 2656** or email **office@westleaschool.co.uk**

Schoolgateway



Pastoral update

My first month as the Head of Pastoral Development has been a busy but exhilarating period.

My initial focus has been learning about the range of support and information available to our parents and carers as well as identifying the areas we can improve and develop further over time.

I am also pleased to introduce you to three members of the Pastoral Support Team who, along with myself and your campus teams, are always available to offer support to you.



Kathryn White
Attendance and
Safeguarding Officer

Kathryn is our Attendance and Safeguarding Officer, and member of the Pastoral Development Team. Kathryn has worked in education for over a decade and has been with West Lea for the past 18 months. She works closely with Attendance Leads at each of our campuses monitoring and identifying concerns, working in a supportive capacity to address any barriers to attendance students might be facing.



Jeanette Fuster
Safeguarding Officer

Jeanette has worked at West Lea since January 2023, and is very excited to be joining the Pastoral Development Team working with dedicated and experienced colleagues. Her role is multi-layered, supporting the team, safeguarding our children and young people, and amplifying the voice of our pupils. She is also passionate about helping parents and carers who might be struggling and would welcome you to come to her if you'd like some support.



Zuhre Omer
Parent Support Advisor

Zuhre is our Parent Support Advisor, on hand to help with all kinds of queries, questions and guidance. While her role is diverse in nature, she will be supporting West Lea in areas including (but not limited to) organising coffee mornings and appointments for parents and carers, supporting ESOL classes, interpreting and translating support, helping with form filling and transport and disabled/freedom badge applications, alongside other support for trips and home visits.

We're looking forward to working alongside parents and carers over the coming weeks and months. If you require any support please do not hesitate to contact me directly on **0208 887 1161** or via email **cgoodwin@westleaschool.co.uk**

Mrs Omer can be contacted on **zomer@westleaschool.co.uk** if you would like more information on any of the programmes or events featured on the following page.



CATH GOODWIN
Head of Pastoral
Development

PARENT CHAMPIONS



We are currently working in partnership with the Children's Society to recruit Parent Champions. The programme will identify volunteers from our own community who will become Parent/Carer Champions (PCC) and support other parents and carers at West Lea School.

The team of voluntary PCCs will be trained to enable them to support parents and carers through signposting, sharing experiences and empowering them to connect with support services.

To find out more, please go to: <https://bit.ly/wlchamp>

EARLY HELP SERVICE – ESCAPE PARENTING PROGRAMME

We are currently working with the Early Help Service to organise a parenting course called the Escape Programme. This course runs over six weeks and will equip parents with strategies on how to tackle key parenting issues including:

- Children's challenging behaviour
- Learning from other parents
- Understanding child development
- Developing and setting clear boundaries to promote a positive parent/child relationship
- Using appropriate parenting techniques to promote confidence
- Building good relationships with schools
- Preventing family conflict
- Gaining new strategies to manage behaviour
- Preventing children from anti-social behaviour

For more information, go to:
<https://bit.ly/escapeparenting>

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM (EASA)

EASA is a local authority service supporting autistic children and young people from 0 - 25 years in Enfield.

The EASA website has a comprehensive section for parents and carers featuring a range of support, including details of the Cuppa and Chat Sessions

where parents get the opportunity to chat with other parents and carers and with members of the EASA team.

For more information contact EASA on admin@enfieldasa.org.uk or visit the website on enfieldasa.org.uk

ENFIELD ADVISORY SERVICE FOR AUTISM (EASA) CUPPA AND CHAT SESSIONS

The Cuppa and Chat sessions are an opportunity for parents to meet and chat with other parents and with members of the EASA team.

There will usually be a short presentation (10-15 minutes) on a particular theme to tell you about support available on that topic or to share a few

quick tips. The rest of the time will be informal, with refreshments available.

To see the timetable and book your place go to:
<https://www.enfieldasa.org.uk/Parents-Cuppa-and-Chat-Sessions/>

West Lea in the news

Rapport, the award-winning provider of guest services, hosted its Be Kind Fundraising Event on Friday 29th September, to support and fundraise for its three nominated charity partners, including West Lea School, Down Syndrome Ireland and The Wildlife Trusts.

The partnership represents Rapport's commitment to creating change in the community. In the case of its work with West Lea, this is part of the team's dedication to inclusivity to recruit more diverse talent and provide real world experience and opportunities for young people in Enfield.

The fundraising event raised more than £10,000 for all three charities via ticket sales, generous donations and a silent auction, where ambassadors and clients donated various items and services.

West Lea's CEO, Paul Quinn and our Independence, Business and Partnerships Manager, Jack Kelley went along to the fundraiser, to celebrate the wonderful partnership that West Lea and Rapport have built over the years.

To date, Rapport has hosted six young people as part of West Lea's Supported Internship placement over the past two years, three of which are now in employment at the organisation. As well as supporting interns, Rapport staff have carried out practice interviews for students and given tours and career discussions on working in hospitality. This support has greatly increased the schools' careers programme and been a valuable insight into the work opportunities available to students with SEND.



With research by the British Association for Supported Employment showing that the employment rate for people with a learning disability fell to 4.8 percent in 2022, the partnership highlights the importance of building relationships to address this imbalance and give more young people the opportunity to work.

Jack Kelley, Independence, Business and Partnerships Manager at West Lea, said:

"West Lea is delighted to be involved with Rapport's first Be Kind Fundraiser as a charity partner. We want to thank all those who donated and attended this wonderful event. It is thanks to our partnership with Rapport and other employers that we can offer such important opportunities to our students.

"Without this support, we wouldn't be able to provide real-world experiences for young people who might not otherwise have access to meaningful employment opportunities. In 2023, it is vital that we drive forward opportunities to create more inclusive and diverse workplaces."

Emily Abbam, Diversity and Inclusion Business Partner at Rapport said:

"This was an absolutely fantastic night! We were all incredibly proud that we were able to reach our fundraising target of £10,000! Well done and thank you to everyone who was able to contribute. We know how much this means to our charity partners and we are excited as to what the funds will do to continue their meaningful and impactful work. I would just like to take this opportunity to thank West Lea and the team for their ongoing support with the Supported Internship programme – we are very lucky to work with you all and we very much look forward to furthering our partnership in the years to come."

Key term dates 2023 - 2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023

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

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

Tuesday 31st October
Flu immunisations - ASU

Thursday 9th November
International Social Media Kindness Day

Friday 10th November
Supported Internship Gala Dinner

Saturday 11th November
Remembrance Day

Sunday 12th November
Diwali

Monday 13th - Friday 17th November
Antibullying Week

Friday 17th November
Children in Need

Monday 20th - Friday 24th November
Road Safety Week

Tuesday 28th November
9am – Bring your parents to school morning at Meridian Campus

Wednesday 6th December
INSET Day - School closed to learners

Friday 8th December
Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 12th December
Meridian Campus Christmas Concert

Friday 15th December
Hannukah
5pm Christmas Disco at Haselbury Campus

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/Carer Progress Review meetings

Monday 29th January – Friday 2nd February
WOW Week - National Storytelling Week

Saturday 10th February
Chinese New Year

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

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

Monday 4th March - Friday 8th March
WOW Week – National Careers Week

Sunday 10th March
Start of Ramadan

Friday 15th March
Red Nose Day

Tuesday 19th March
Meridian Campus Easter Concert

Thursday 28th March
CONEL INSET Day
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



community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**