

Newsletter March 2024

Volume 3 | Issue 3

Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter.

As we welcome the warmth and energy of spring, it's a wonderful time to reflect on growth, both in nature and within our school community. With each passing day, we have the privilege to see your children blossoming into remarkable individuals, each with their own unique talents.

This spring, we're excited to share with you the highlights of our recent activities and achievements across all our campuses. National Careers Week has been a resounding success, with learners diving into a multitude of activities aimed at exploring different career opportunities. This helps them to cultivate the confidence to flourish in their future. From visits to London skyscrapers, theatres, and fire stations to creating our own 'little city', it's been a wonderful experience, which you'll learn more about in our article 'Discovering the world of work'. It's been fantastic to see so many of our students benefiting from real life experiences and situations.

As we embrace the season of growth and renewal, with brighter mornings and evenings firmly on the horizon, it's a great reminder for us of our fundamental mission, which is to nurture the seeds of potential within each of our learners, fostering a community where every individual can flourish.

As always, we're incredibly grateful for the trust you place in our school. Thank you.

Wishing you a very happy and peaceful spring break.

With every blessing and good wish,

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

PAUL QUINN
CEO

community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**

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Discovering the world of work

Learners across the school have been celebrating National Careers Week with a wide range of activities and experiences to help them discover the world of work.

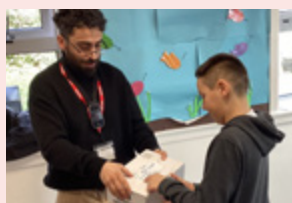
This special event isn't just about preparing for the future; it's about empowering our learners to dream big, discover their talents, and build the confidence they need to flourish.

By introducing them to different roles and industries, we can help broaden their horizons, expand their interests, and foster a sense of curiosity about the world around them.

Participating in National Careers Week activities gives our children and young people real life experience that helps them develop essential skills such as communication, problem-solving, and teamwork.



At Meridian Campus, we created 'Little City Meridian' at Dysons Road, which included a hairdresser, café, ice cream stand, shop, construction site, doctors, and our very own emergency services. At Springfield Road, we've had lots of visitors including a London underground engineer and a postman. This gave the children valuable insights into different professions, sparking conversations about the jobs they might do in the future.



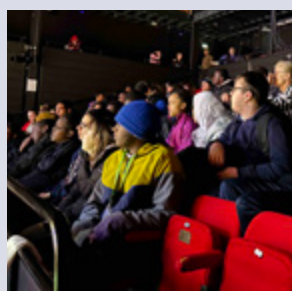
AMANDA BREEN & MARTA SOBTCHAK
Leaders of Learning for Personal Development

At Haselbury Campus, learners got a taste of a career in catering by preparing and serving food to their teachers and peers. It was wonderful to see them showcase their culinary skills and teamwork while enjoying delicious meals together. They also visited Krispy Kreme and Greggs.



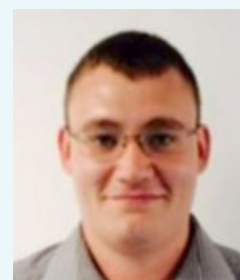
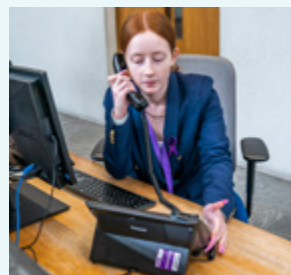
ANDREW LOUIS
Leader of Learning for Personal Development

At Learning for Life Campus, learners explored careers in the performing arts and creative industries. This included a behind-the-scenes trip to the Chickenshed theatre, and a visit from a cartoonist.



GEMMA BUTTERFIELD
Leader of Learning for
Personal Development

At Horizon Campus, we enjoyed a range of careers-related trips and activities in the City of London. From finance, performing arts and sport, to hospitality, film and TV production, there really was something for everyone.



RICHARD GIBSON
Leader of Learning for
Personal Development

By engaging in hands-on experiences and interactive workshops, children learn about the world of work in a way that's fun and engaging. It helps them to imagine what they might do in their future.





Meridian Campus

As the holidays approach, we're welcoming spring and celebrating being half-way through the school year.

The children are settled into their classes and routines, have enjoyed different ways of learning, and have many successes to share.

We've opened our Mud Kitchen at Dysons Road – where the children enjoy digging, brushing, painting and 'mark making' with mud and chalk. We've had a lot of muddy shoes and hands, but also lots of smiles and enjoyment. Thankfully, their splash suits keep them clean ready for home time.

In maths, we structure learning around the framework, "build it, say it, and draw or write it." This term, children have been naming and recognising 2D and 3D shapes and understanding values.



In English, we've been breaking down sentences and exploring the meaning of words using 'colourful semantics'. This is a system for colour coding sentences according to the role of different words. It helps children to break down sentences, understand what individual words mean, and better understand word order.



In our knowledge of the world sessions, children learn how to develop their language and writing skills by playing. They used iPads and books to search out knowledge, and enthusiastically threw themselves into role playing to bring their learning alive.

In catering lessons, they've been learning recipes and cooking food related to topics we've covered in English and history. Cooking is also a great way to develop their fine motor skills.

Overall, it's been an exciting term with lots of exciting learning taking place.



EMMA DRIVER
Head of School





Haselbury Campus

We'd like to express gratitude to every member of our community.

Throughout the spring term, we've seen first-hand the remarkable resilience and adaptability of our learners, team members, and families. We also want to thank our learners for their enthusiasm, curiosity, and determination. It's an honour to see them grow and develop every day.

To our parents and carers, we extend our sincere thanks for your ongoing support and collaboration. Your active engagement in your child's educational journey is invaluable, and we truly appreciate the trust you place in us.

Below are some of the highlights of the exciting experiences your children have had the opportunity to engage in this term.



We had lots of fun celebrating National Storytelling Week. Learners explored the diverse ways in which stories are told, through spoken language, writing, film, and other creative mediums. Some children enjoyed a week retelling

a story through role play, cooking, and arts and crafts. Other classes wrote their own story and created a 'Story Box', which they filmed on video, and then set up a cinema to share their work. To end the exciting week, we celebrated World Book Day and enjoyed dressing up and reading a favourite book.

In science, year 9 students visited the Wonder Lab at the Science Museum. Each class had the opportunity to explore different interactive science activities and experiments. Some of the classes travelled by public transport, putting their independent travel skills into practice.



In computing, year 8 students composed music using the piano feature on the programme 'Garage Band.' This music will be used in the silent movies filmed by the students during their creative lessons. Each film will be premiered at our creative celebration event in the summer term.



Overall, it's been a very productive term with lots of enriching activities that had a big impact on learning.



ANGELA POPLAR & TANVEELA HAIDAR
Co-Heads of School



Learning for Life Campus

We've had a fantastic spring term at Learning for Life.



Hill and Phelps classes have enjoyed their work experience and made us all proud. It's always rewarding to see the students putting skills they've learnt at school and college into practice at work.

Some placements have been so successful that the employers don't want the learners to leave. Companies that have welcomed us this term are Fortuna, Tesco, Building Bloqs and Broomfield Park.

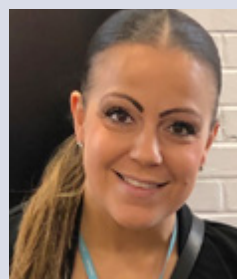
We also continued to develop our enrichment programme, with clubs and activities taking place throughout the school day, over the lunch period, and after school. We now have choir, Chickenshed,



games club, sports club, PlayStation club and Dance club. Classes also visited Chickenshed as part of Careers Week.



With such a variety of experiences on offer, the students have flourished and had lots of fun as they've been learning this term.



THESPINA SKARPELLIS
Head of School





Horizon Campus

How time flies! We're already halfway through the school year and it's great to see the progress being made by our learners at Horizon campus.

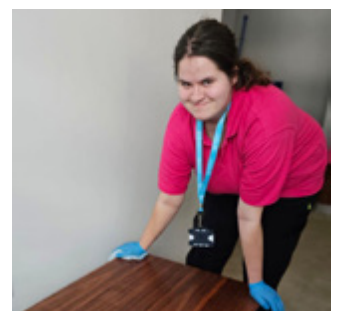
The spring has been another busy term with so much going on at college and for our pre-interns and supported interns. Many of our learners have been preparing for their speaking and listening assessments in English, learning about place value and solving real-life problems using fractions, decimals and percentages.



Learners have also been answering big questions such as "what is democracy and the UK voting system?" and "why is it important to look after my physical health & keep safe?" in PSHE. We've seen some fantastic creations in vocational lessons, for example, red velvet cupcakes in catering and footstools in construction.

Our focus on employability continues as Braun class have started their individual work experience and supported interns have been settling into their work placements. We're really proud of the progress they're making so far and look forward to reporting on their successes as the year progresses.

Our Horizon Hang Out clubs have been more popular than ever. Learners have been signing up to after school activities to go on trips to the cinema, Creams Cafe, games and cooking clubs.



KIKA CHARALAMBOUS
Head of School



Enterprise Cooperative Trust



Bishop Stopford School joins Enterprise Cooperative Trust as a partner to provide greater opportunities for children in Enfield.

We're excited to announce that Bishop Stopford School, in Enfield, has joined Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) to help us strengthen the work we're doing in equipping children in Enfield with life opportunities, skills and work experience to set them up for success.

Bishop Stopford's vision is to provide an outstanding, inclusive, and aspirational education for its children. With a commitment to highly inclusive education, the school closely aligns with the aims and ethos of ECT.

Bishop Stopford officially joined ECT in February and, as a partner, it will continue to run as an autonomous school. Our partnership will

provide the school greater access to an array of opportunities including work experience, employee training, and additional funding.

Tammy Day, headteacher at Bishop Stopford School, said:

"We are ambitious for all our students and believe that every child can flourish with the right environment and support. Joining the Trust is an

exciting opportunity for our school. The Trust mirrors Bishop Stopford's ethos and vision which puts young people at the heart of everything that we do, improving life chances and developing enthusiastic, successful, young citizens of the future."

Janet Leach, Chair of ECT, said:

"We are really excited to have Bishop Stopford join ECT. It felt like a very natural fit, with a lot of alignment between the Trust's efforts and the excellent work the school already does. Since our official launch last year, it's been wonderful to see interest in the partnership grow alongside the opportunities for young people. We're always looking for like-minded schools, businesses, and other organisations to join us in making positive steps forward."

ECT's current members include West Lea School (founding member); the College of Haringey, Enfield, and Northeast London (CONEL); Laurel Park School, Chickenshed theatre company; Enfield Council; Learning for Life Charity; Co-Op Retail; and the Co-operative Schools Network.



Learning for Life Charity

As the Easter break approaches, our two charity shops – Life on the Green and Life in the Town – are open and busy. Our volunteers and student helpers would love you to stop by to support them and pick up some bargains.

As we're often asked how the charity's activities fit with the school, we've made this the focus of our update.

Founded in December 2014, Learning for Life Charity (LFLC) is celebrating its tenth anniversary. Formed through a unique partnership between the school and the local community, we have a shared vision of empowering children and young people with SEND and those who have been affected by illness or poverty.

Through our social enterprise projects and services, LFLC provides learners from across the borough with opportunities to work, make friends, explore, learn, and make a difference in their local area. These experiences are open to West Lea students as well as those from other schools.



teamwork, the skills help them when transitioning from education to further training or employment.

By providing quality work experience and learning outside of the traditional classroom, the charity can tailor learning to each young person's needs, helping them to develop, experience success, and become as independent as possible.

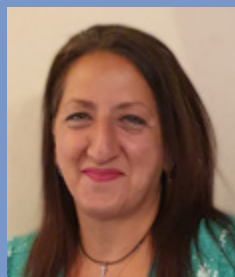
Our Life in the Town shop is at 1 Burleigh Way, Enfield, EN2 6AE and is open Monday to Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Our Life on the Green shop can be found at 6 North Mall, Edmonton Green, London, N9 0EH and opens from 10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday.

LFLC has exciting plans for 2024 and we'll continue to share more in upcoming newsletter editions. Meanwhile, we'd like to say thank you for supporting us. If you're interested in donating or volunteering, please get in touch via the LFLC website: learningforlifecharity.co.uk/contact-us/

One of the projects we are extremely passionate about is our upcycling workshop, where our charity volunteers help students to upcycle items to sell in our charity shops. Past students have upcycled furniture, frames, and mirrors, creating original one-off pieces you wouldn't typically find on the high street.

Whether they take part in upcycling or shop work, students gain key life skills that will help them with future employment. From merchandising and customer service, to communication and



**Learning for
Life Charity**

PANAY RICHARDS
Operations Director
Learning for Life Charity

West Lea in the news

Putting our people first: West Lea's 'magic formula'

Next month, we will be featured in Education Today magazine talking about our 'magic formula,' which is key to creating a positive and motivating culture and making sure that everyone in our school community can flourish. This starts with our people.

Everything we do at West Lea is anchored by our values of Community, Inclusion, Learning for Life, Innovation and Kindness. These behaviours are lived, taught, and modelled across our whole school community and backed up by our vision. They underpin all the work we do to create an extraordinary and happy school.

Our formula is not revolutionary, in fact, it's been tried and tested across many sectors and organisations.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

The ethos of putting people first underpins our entire strategic framework and is based on Robert Greenleaf's 'servant leadership' approach. Greenleaf's aim was to prioritise the growth and wellbeing of people and the communities they serve. We believe in inspiring our people so they truly believe in our mission and purpose; something that can only be realised through leaders who encourage their teams to be the very best they can be.

Our leaders are committed to supporting the wellbeing and active participation of all our people in the school's mission. This creates an atmosphere that is motivating, fulfilling, and rewarding. By encouraging and supporting our team members to lead by example and display positive behaviours and mindsets, our learners can gain far more both academically and socially.

A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

Creating an environment in which our people can flourish, requires a significant investment of time, effort, and resources. Cultural change takes courage, ambition, supportive leadership, conviction and is a long-term commitment. It is not something that happens overnight.

We have found that it is possible to spark change without too much opposition if we come from a place of encouragement and positivity. And, if we see it as a journey where we seek 'progress not perfection,' acknowledging there will always be more improvements to be made along the way.

PUTTING CHANGE INTO PRACTICE

To create and implement an effective strategy that empowers our people and culture, we have learned how we can empower people to support our shared vision.

This includes understanding our strengths and

weaknesses and how we can forge a path towards our goal. From here, we created a strategy which centred on investing in our leaders and managers. We believe that happy teams create happy schools, so our emphasis is to give value and support to our teams, encouraging them to lead by example.

We motivate our people to think about what they want to achieve in the realms of their career development and how we can help them to get there.

Education is a mission driven sector which plays a pivotal role in motivating and inspiring staff. If the staff are unhappy, so is the school, which has a negative effect on everyone.

SEEING THE IMPACT OF CHANGE

Our work is by no means done, but we are beginning to see the impact as we continue to work to embed this approach. In 2023, we completed a Gallup report to measure the impact of our work so far.

Despite it only being a year since we had begun to prioritise culture and people, our most recent report showed that employee engagement levels had increased by seven per cent from 2022; figures that remain far beyond national and sector averages.

We are fully aware that despite the promising progress we have seen so far, we have only taken the first few steps on our journey to creating an empowering and rewarding culture for our people.

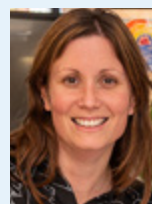
This is a journey that we will continue to travel on. Ensuring people can succeed is not a destination, but something that must always be actively strived for. Whilst this can seem daunting to some schools, it is a challenge that must be welcomed.

People are fundamental to the success of any organisation and supporting them to be their very best should be the ambition – and duty – of every employer, regardless of sector.

This is why we try to live our values and continue to strive to create a supportive, people-focused environment which makes our 'magic formula' of flourishing people = flourishing pupils = flourishing communities become a reality.



PAUL QUINN
CEO



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





This is a journey that we will continue to travel on. Ensuring people can succeed is not a destination, but something that must always be actively strived for.



Pastoral update

We're excited to share how we're developing our pastoral services.

The pastoral team supports students and their families, with the goal of ensuring every child flourishes in their learning journey.

STUDENT WELLBEING

Every child is unique, which is why we've created a wide-ranging therapeutic offer.

Alongside NHS specialists, we work closely with groups such as My Young Mind Enfield, and Enfield Children and Young People's Service, to provide an extended range of therapeutic options.

Music mentors from Everybody Loves Music provide fun and engaging ways for our children to express their feelings and channel their emotions. And our Pastoral Mentors at Learning for Life and Haselbury Campus provide additional student support.

PARENT WELLBEING

Students flourish when schools and families work together. We can provide you with guidance and resources to help nurture your child's strengths, learning and development.

We can help you to navigate and contact other services. If you have younger children, we can support you with accessing the Enfield Early Help hubs. And if your child is older, we're here to help as you prepare them for adulthood.

Our commitment also extends to supporting your wellbeing. For example, we recently held a coffee morning where nurse Sarah Azouri provided diabetes check-ups.

And we'd like to say thank you to Maggie Lawler and Francesca Nyman from the Children's Society for arranging a special wellbeing day for parents and carers, which included beauty treatments by Samantha Champion.

OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

We're proud of the work we do to reach vulnerable young people who are facing challenges attending school due to medical and other difficulties.



Good attendance is vital for learners' success, so we're committed to working with you to ensure your child comes to school regularly and on time. Our attendance lead, Katherine White, and her team are here to help. If you let us know of any issues early, we can work together to resolve them.

For pupils who cannot come into school, we provide hospital and home tuition, along with specialist attendance support at our Cyprus Road site that helps learners back into education.

We're continuing to improve our pastoral services, so please let us know what you'd like to be different. Please email office@westleaschool.co.uk with your feedback or suggestions.

Together, we'll continue to create a positive learning environment where every child can flourish.



CATH GOODWIN
Head of Pastoral
Development

Key term dates 2024

SPRING TERM

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

Monday 15th April

First day of summer term – School reopens

Wednesday 17th April

Parent/Carer progress review meetings – School closes at 12.30

Thursday 2nd May

Open morning at Meridian Campus – Dysons Road Site, 9.30am

Friday 3rd May

Open morning at Meridian Campus – Springfield Road Site, 9.30am

Monday 6th May

Bank Holiday – School closed to learners

Tuesday 7th May

CONEL INSET Day

Tuesday 14th May

Bring your parents to school morning – Meridian Campus

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

Half term – School closed to learners

Monday 3rd June

Start of summer term 2 – School reopens

Thursday 6th June

Open morning at Meridian Campus – Dysons Road Site, 9.30am

Friday 7th June

Open morning at Meridian Campus – Springfield Road Site, 9.30am

Monday 17th June

Eid el adha

Friday 28th June

Year 11 Prom and Leavers Assembly

Last day of term for KS5 learners and Pre-Interns

Monday 1st July – Friday 5th July

Year 11 PGL

Thursday 4th July

Open morning at Meridian Campus – Dysons Road Site, 9.30am

Friday 5th July

CONEL INSET Day

Tuesday 9th July

Meridian Campus Summer Concert

Wednesday 10th July

Parent/Carer end of term review meetings – School closes at 12.30 – except Year 9

Wednesday 10th July – Friday 12th July

Year 9 residential to Grosvenor Hall

Friday 12th July

Last day of term for interns

Wednesday 17th July

Year 9 Parent/Carer end of term review meetings

Wednesday 24th July

Last day of summer term



community
kindness
learning for life
innovation **inclusion**