

Newsletter December 2024



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the December issue of our newsletter.

As 2024 draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the year with gratitude and celebrate all we've achieved as a community.

The autumn term has been vibrant and fulfilling, full of classroom learning, rewarding experiences, and opportunities that have supported our learners to grow and flourish. Together, we've helped broaden horizons and enrich lives.

In this edition, we're proud to highlight the incredible work of our pastoral development team. Their dedication to helping families makes a real difference, and we'd love to hear your ideas on how we can continue to strengthen our support. We want every member of our community to feel valued and heard, as you'll discover in the news article about the work we're doing with Square Peg.

We're also delighted to share the fantastic news of Ofsted's recent review of our supported internship programme. Their report highlighted the excellent outcomes, strong relationships, and commitment of our employer partners and Horizon team. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to this success.

Looking ahead to 2025, we remain deeply committed to breaking down barriers so every child and young person can achieve their full potential. There is always more we can accomplish.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. On behalf of everyone at West Lea, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful festive season and a Happy New Year.

With every blessing and good wish,



Paul Quinn
CEO



Renee Flourentzou
Director of Education



Melanie Bignold
Director of Education

community
kindness
learning for life
innovation inclusion

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Working together to help learners and families flourish

Every child and young person faces their own challenges, drawing on the support of families, friends, and trusted adults to navigate life's ups and downs.

At the heart of this support is our pastoral development team, led by Cath Goodwin. Their focus? Ensuring the wellbeing and care of our learners by working closely with students, families, class teams, and external services.

"We want children, young people, and their families to know they can come to us for support whenever they need it," Cath shared. "Our work isn't just about solving problems – it's about proactively helping young people feel happy, healthy, and ready to give their best every day."

SUPPORTING LEARNERS

For children to learn effectively, they need to feel safe, valued, and understood. Teachers and support team members play a vital role in inspiring learners to dream big and achieve their goals, no matter the difficulties they may face.

School life brings its share of successes and setbacks, and that's where the pastoral team steps in. Whether it's



supporting class teams with safeguarding, welfare, and attendance, or helping learners manage emotions and build relationships, the team ensures every young person has the tools they need to thrive.

Sometimes, a simple chat with a supportive adult is enough to help a learner tackle everyday challenges, like building friendships or addressing worries about a subject or class. For those who need additional support, therapies are available in collaboration with NHS specialists and organisations like My Young Mind Enfield.

When barriers such as medical issues or anxiety prevent a child from attending school, the pastoral team works with families to find solutions and ensure learning continues – wherever that may take place.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

We understand that when a child is facing adversity, it can affect the whole family. The pastoral team is here to support parents and carers in these moments. Working together, we create supportive environments where everyone feels valued and empowered.

Our team offers resources, practical advice, and workshops to help parents and carers build on their child's strengths. We also provide opportunities for self-care and personal growth through health check-ups, English and IT classes, and even massage therapy.

Group sessions, coffee mornings, and social events provide a chance for families to connect and share experiences. If there's something new you would like us to offer, we're always open to ideas.



"We want children, young people, and their families to know they can come to us for support whenever they need it."

**Cath Goodwin,
Head of Pastoral Development**



WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHER SERVICES

When families need extra support, we collaborate with external specialists like CAMHS, the Enfield Early Help Hub, and Children's Services. This 'team around the family' approach ensures that everyone involved works together to provide the best possible care.

Parents and carers are at the heart of these discussions, offering invaluable knowledge and insight about their child and family. Wherever possible, learners are also included, encouraging them to share their experiences and explore solutions.

Together, we're building a caring and connected community where learners and families can truly flourish.



WORKING TOGETHER AT MERIDIAN

At Meridian Campus, we're proud of the strong partnerships we've built with families and love inviting parents and carers into school to join in the fun and learning.

Family involvement makes a big difference to the children's progress and engagement. The joy on their faces says it all – they're so proud to show their parents and carers what they can do.



Parents and carers have spent time with each other while learning about fun projects they can try at home.



Each week, we share photos and videos to keep families updated on their child's learning progress. It's a joy to celebrate those milestone moments together.



Family Tuesdays are half-termly sessions where parents and carers join in the fun. These shared activities are a genuine highlight for families and learners alike.





December has been a whirlwind of activity and celebration at Meridian Campus, with plenty to reflect on and enjoy across the curriculum and our festive events.

First and foremost, a big thank you to everyone who joined us for our end-of-term shows – we hope you enjoyed them as much as we loved performing for you.



Another memorable moment was our annual Christmas Dinner on 12th December. The children carefully selected their lunch using 'choice boards' and then enjoyed a delicious meal with their class 'family' – friends, teachers, and keyworkers included. Afterwards, they used PODD boards to share their thoughts on the meal, with roast potatoes earning the title of clear favourite!



This term has been a milestone in embedding PODD communication boards into everyday life. We've seen firsthand how visuals can support language development. Across classrooms, children are not only responding to communication prompts but are initiating conversations using PODD symbols, showcasing their growing confidence and abilities.

We're also incredibly grateful to the families who joined our online "dinner dates" to learn how to use PODD at home. Your involvement is making such a positive difference, and it's a joy to see the children thrive as their communication and interaction skills blossom.



As we look ahead to 2025, we're ready to build on the fantastic progress we've made this term, supporting every child in achieving their personal learning goals. After a well-deserved break, we're excited to embark on the next chapter of our journey.

Wishing you a restful winter break, a Merry Christmas to those who celebrate, and a very Happy New Year.



EMMA DRIVER
Head of School



As we wrap up another exciting term, here's a snapshot of some fantastic moments from our campus. It's been a flurry of activities, achievements, and fresh initiatives that have strengthened our community bonds.

First, a huge round of applause for our Year 7 gymnasts. Five talented learners competed in a gymnastics tournament, each earning a well-deserved winners' medal. Their dedication and skill are truly inspiring.

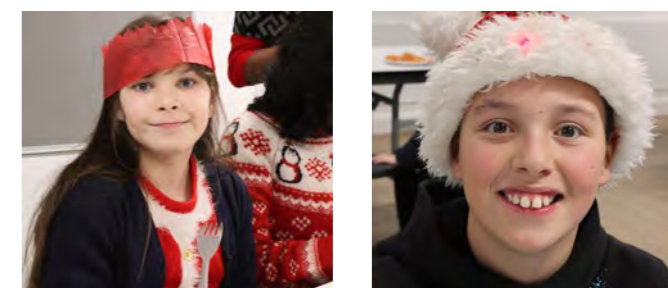


The festive season has been buzzing on our campus. Our Christmas jumper day and lunch on 12th December were joyful highlights, but the excitement didn't stop there. Our creative Student Council organised a '12 Days of Christmas' initiative featuring card-making, crafts, a lunchtime disco, karaoke, and even the release of our very first campus Christmas single, composed and recorded by our talented learners.



In the spirit of giving, learners poured their hearts into our first Christmas Charity event, coordinated by Ms Lopez. From a sponsored fun run to a Christmas Fayre, they raised funds for Shelter and Samaritans. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and supported this effort. We all enjoyed the handmade accessories and delectable treats.

We've continued to expand our lunchtime clubs. Alongside favourites like art, media, and sports, we're excited to launch a new Performing Arts Club in the new year – a creative blend of dance and drama culminating in a performance.



Finally, I'm incredibly proud of our Year 9 mentors, who have stepped up to support the Year 7s. Whether offering guidance in lessons, a listening ear, or helping to resolve conflicts, their positive impact has been remarkable. Peer mentoring is an important part of our pastoral care, strengthening the support network we provide for our learners.

As we head into the holidays, I'm filled with gratitude for our vibrant and caring community. Wishing you a restful break and an exciting new year ahead.



DARIA KOHLS
Head of School



It's been an action-packed first term at Learning for Life, brimming with exciting activities, new opportunities, and positive changes to our campus.

We started the term with college sessions for our Year 10 learners and work experience placements for Year 11s, giving them a chance to develop their skills and confidence in new environments.

Lunchtimes have been bursting with energy. Students have explored a variety of clubs, including drama with Chickenshed, choir, film, basketball and football. These clubs have been a fantastic way for learners to discover new interests, make friends and develop valuable skills.

The PE curriculum has been a particular highlight this term. Students have embraced activities like canoeing, boccia, basketball and football, with tennis and swimming planned for the spring. The overwhelmingly positive feedback reflects how much learners value the variety and opportunities, both on and off-site.



Christmas cheer has also been in full swing. Our Willow Pathway learners had a special visit from Father Christmas, other learners went to the panto, and the whole campus came together for a festive Christmas Dinner at the Arnos Arms on 16th December – a heartwarming seasonal celebration.



There have also been exciting challenges happening across the campus. We're expanding our classroom provision from two to three rooms, ensuring full accessibility for all. The installation of new stairlifts has further improved access, and learners have been fascinated by the transformation. Many enjoyed watching the construction work during breaks, chatting with the project manager, and asking insightful questions about the updates.



As we look ahead to the next term, we're excited to continue this fantastic momentum and create even more opportunities for our young people to flourish.



THESPINA SKARPELLIS
Head of School



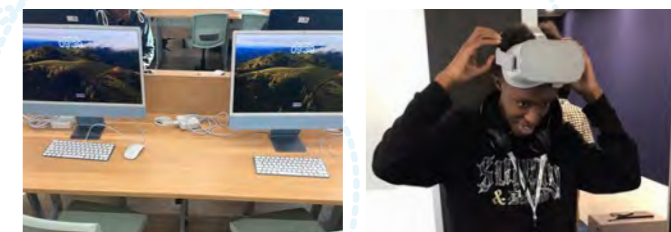
As we approach the end of 2024 and the autumn term, I've been reflecting on the incredible moments from this academic year so far.

It feels like just yesterday we moved into our wonderful new Ponders End site, yet it's already become a second home for our students and team. Everyone has settled in brilliantly, and we're making the most of the fantastic new facilities.

The common room is always alive with chatter during breaks, lunchtimes, and at the start and end of the day. For those seeking a calmer space, our therapy rooms provide a peaceful environment for therapeutic support.



Learning has truly come alive in our spacious, modern classrooms, where subjects like English, Maths, and Life & Work are being brought to life. The aroma of freshly cooked food often drifts from the training kitchen, where students are working towards Catering and Hospitality qualifications. Meanwhile, the media suite is buzzing with energy during Computing and Creative Media lessons, as learners use technology to build essential digital skills for the modern world.



Over at St Mary's, we had an exciting start to the term with a visit from Ofsted just four weeks into September. Three inspectors spent two days learning about the employability programmes we deliver in partnership with Enfield Council. We are immensely proud of the work we do to help interns transition into employment, and it was wonderful to see this recognised in their report.

The inspectors highlighted the benefits of our personalised approach, noting, "Learners and their parents value highly the individualised care and attention that staff give learners to help them succeed." Since the inspection, many of our supported interns have started their placements and are settling in well to their new roles.



As we wrap up another successful term, I'm looking forward to celebrating the festive season with both students and team members. Highlights include a Christmas lunch with our sixth formers and pre-interns at Harvester's Navigation Inn, an office party at our St Mary's site, and our celebratory assembly on the last day of term.

Here's to an exciting end to the year and even more achievements to come in 2025.



KIKA CHARALAMBOUS
Head of School

Enterprise Cooperative Trust



With the end of the year approaching, it's the perfect time to reflect on 2024 - a year of growth and progress for the Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT).

Over the past 12 months, our family has expanded to include Bishop Stopford School and, more recently, Enfield County School for Girls as valued partners.

We've also deepened our collaboration with Enfield Council, welcoming Brett Leahy, Director of Planning and Growth, as a trustee. His involvement has brought even greater alignment with our priorities and opened up exciting new opportunities for the future.

With plans underway to secure additional funding for our schools and partner organisations, and the development of a diverse vocational offer for pupils, 2025 promises to be an exciting year for us all.

Before signing off and letting Chickenshed take the stage in the rest of this update, I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been part of our journey. From our dedicated trustees and partners to our wonderful schools and families, you've all played a vital role in our shared success.

I wish you a joyful festive season filled with laughter and special moments with loved ones.



JANET LEACH
Chair, ECT

Here's to an exciting and prosperous 2025.

A MAGICAL CHRISTMAS WITH CHICKENSHED'S PAN

This festive season, one of ECT's longstanding partners, Chickenshed Theatre, invites you on an unforgettable Christmas adventure with PAN. This year's show is extra special, as it celebrates Chickenshed's 50th anniversary. After a public vote, PAN was chosen to take centre stage, with 2,287 casting their vote for this timeless classic.

Prepare to be spellbound as the story of Peter Pan losing his shadow unfolds. Follow Wendy, John, and Michael Darling as they're swept away on a magical escapade to Neverland – a world of wonder where fairies flit, pirates plot, and the Lost Ones await their happy ending.

With Chickenshed's famously large and wonderfully diverse cast, this reimagined production captures the heart of what makes their shows so extraordinary. PAN promises to be a spectacle for all ages, filled with magical chaos, heartwarming moments, and enchanting surprises.

Celebrate 50 years of Chickenshed with this unforgettable performance.

For times and tickets:
www.chickenshed.org.uk/events/pan

Venue: Rayne Theatre, Chickenshed, Chase Side, Southgate, London N14 4PE

Age guidance: 5 years +

Running time: Approximately 2 hours, including an interval



Learning for Life Charity

All Works of Life: Empowering learners through real-world experience.

It's the perfect time to pause and reflect on the incredible achievements of the young people we've supported this year through our charity shops and innovative projects. Our mission is to provide life and work skills training for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), aged 16 to 25, and this year has been no exception.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our charity shop team, upcycling expert, and bakery trainer, we've delivered educational programmes and work experience opportunities that have helped local learners build confidence, foster independence, and develop skills for future employment. We're immensely grateful for the time, effort, and passion our people bring to their roles, making a lasting impact on the lives of those we support.



One of the standout successes this year has been our All Works of Life project, a real-world printing enterprise based at Fortuna Healthcare's distribution centre in Enfield. This initiative has given a group of West Lea students the chance to gain practical skills and hands-on experience, designing and producing beautiful and bespoke Christmas cards that were sold to the public in our charity shops. Their creativity and hard work have been truly inspiring.



The success of All Works of Life has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of several locally based partners and supporters. Branded workwear supplier My Elements, education partner West Lea, and healthcare products distributor Fortuna Healthcare have all played vital roles. Fundraising efforts by Rapport Guest Services and Taylor Woodrow provided crucial financial support to get the project off the ground.

The project has been a fantastic platform for young people to explore the creative and production aspects of business, building essential skills while preparing for future learning and careers. We're deeply grateful to Fortuna Healthcare for hosting the project and making this opportunity possible. We're also immensely proud of the students who have embraced this experience with enthusiasm, determination, and creativity.

As the project continues into the new year, we look forward to seeing even more achievements from the learners. Their success is testament to what can be achieved when communities come together to support young people with SEND.

On behalf of the charity team, I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to My Elements, Fortuna Healthcare, Rapport Guest Services, Taylor Woodrow, West Lea School, and to our charity trustees and supporters for their dedication and commitment to our work this year.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



OLIVIA WITTICH
Operations Director, LFLC Ltd



"We're immensely grateful for the time, effort, and passion our people bring to their roles, making a lasting impact on the lives of those we support"



West Lea in the news

HOW WORKING WITH SQUARE PEG IS HELPING US BUILD STRONGER PARTNERSHIPS WITH FAMILIES

At West Lea, our learners are at the heart of everything we do.

To help them become the best versions of themselves, we focus on supporting not only them but also the people and community around them. It's a simple yet powerful formula: flourishing people = flourishing pupils = flourishing communities.

This means putting people – employees, learners, and families – first. We want every member of our community to feel valued, heard, and a true sense of belonging. To strengthen our partnerships with parents and carers, we've been exploring ways to deepen collaboration and ensure families feel fully supported.

In November, we hosted a workshop with Square Peg, a social enterprise dedicated to fostering partnerships between schools and families. Square Peg specialises in building inclusive relationships, particularly around challenges like SEND barriers and school attendance.

During the session, Square Peg's Executive Director, Ellie Costello, shared her personal story of advocating for her children with additional needs. Ellie's reflections on the struggles many parents face in navigating the SEND system highlighted how schools can better consider the parent perspective and provide meaningful support.

The session prompted us to reflect on how we live out our vision and values in every interaction with our community. Our ethos is beautifully summed up by Dr Bruce D. Parry's words: "Relationships are the agents of change, and the most powerful therapy is human love." This idea aligns with our ambition to ensure everyone in our community feels cared for, heard and respected. It's why the icon in our logo - a heart formed by two people holding hands - represents the role we play in helping learners and their families to flourish.

We're proud of the ways we already collaborate with families. From co-developing Personalised Learning Plans and reviewing learners' progress, to hosting community events like our Christmas performances and regularly inviting parents and carers into school, we work hard to create a welcoming space for all. However, we know there's more we can do.

Looking ahead, we'll be expanding opportunities for two-way dialogue and co-creation with families. Whether through new forums or additional support, we want to ensure our partnerships are truly collaborative and rooted in openness, trust, and mutual respect.

This is an ongoing journey, but one we're excited to continue together. We welcome ideas from all our families on how we can strengthen these vital relationships and support you more effectively.



"We want every member of our community to feel valued, heard, and a true sense of belonging."



Our campuses



West Lea
MERIDIAN CAMPUS

Dysons Road
174 Dysons Road,
Edmonton, N18 2DS

Springfield Road
Springfield Road,
New Southgate,
N11 1SP




West Lea
HASELBURY CAMPUS

Haselbury Campus
Haselbury Road,
Edmonton, N9 9TU




West Lea
LEARNING FOR LIFE CAMPUS

Laurel Park School
Wilmer Way,
Enfield, N14 7HY




West Lea
HORIZON CAMPUS

St Mary's
Lawrence Road,
Edmonton, N18 2HN

KS5 Campus
219-221 High Street,
Ponders End,
Enfield, EN3 4DX



Key term dates 2024-25

SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6th January
INSET Day – School closed to learners

Tuesday 7th January
First day of Spring Term – Learners return to school

Monday 22nd January
Supported Internship Open Evening at Horizon Campus, Ponders End, 5-6pm

Monday 27th to Friday 31st January
National Storytelling Week

Wednesday 12th February
Parent and Carer Progress Review –
School closes at 12.30pm

Monday 17th to Friday 21st February
Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 24th February
Learners return to school

Wednesday 26th February
Supported Internship Open Evening at Horizon Campus, Ponders End, 5-6pm

Monday 3rd to Friday 7th March
National Careers Week

Friday 21st March
World Down Syndrome Day – Odd Socks Day!

Monday 24th March
Easter Concert at Meridian Campus,
Dysons Road, 2pm

Wednesday 26th March
Supported Internship Open Evening at Horizon Campus, Ponders End, 5-6pm

Monday 31st March
Easter Concert at Meridian Campus,
Springfield Road, 2pm

Thursday 3rd April
Duke of Edinburgh Award - Learner volunteering,
Learning for Life Campus

Friday 4th April
Last day of Spring Term

Monday 7th to Friday 18th April
Easter Break – School closed to learners

SUMMER TERM

Monday 21st April
Bank Holiday

Tuesday 22nd April
First day of Summer Term – Learners return to school

Wednesday 23rd April
Supported Internship Open Evening at Horizon Campus, Ponders End, 5-6pm

Monday 5th May
Bank Holiday

Monday 12th to Friday 16th May
Mental Health Awareness Week

Wednesday 21st May
Supported Internship Open Evening at Horizon Campus, Ponders End, 5-6pm

Monday 26th to Friday 30th May
Half Term – School closed to learners

Monday 2nd June
Learners return to school

Wednesday 18th June
Parent and Carer End of Year Review –
School closes at 12.30pm

Friday 11th July
Last day of Summer Term for Horizon learners

Tuesday 22nd July
Last day of Summer Term for Reception
to Year 11 learners



community
kindness
learning for life
innovation inclusion