

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter.

As the days grow lighter and warmer, it's a wonderful time to pause and celebrate all that your children have achieved across the school community this term.

This month, we were proud to take part in National Careers Week – a chance for learners to explore, reflect on, and get excited about the world of work. Our lead article on Horizon Works – the new name for our pre internship and supported internship programmes – feels particularly fitting.

While Horizon Works marks the final stage of our learners' journey with us, careers education is woven throughout the school – from early years right through to our interns. We're incredibly proud of the progress our learners make: learning to communicate with confidence, travel independently, and embrace meaningful work opportunities.

Our mission remains the same: to nurture the potential in every child and young person, and to create a school community where they can truly flourish. As we visit each campus at the end of term, we see that vision coming to life – in the classrooms, in the playgrounds, and in every smile and success story.

Thank you for the trust you place in our school team.

Wishing you and your family a happy and peaceful spring break.

With every blessing and good wish.



Paul Quinn CEO



Renee FlourentzouDirector of Education



Melanie BignoldDirector of Education

kindness learning for life innovation inclusion

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West Lea School

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Horizon Works

Breaking down barriers to employment

Horizon Works is the jewel in the crown of our curriculum – an employability programme that helps young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) gain the confidence, skills, and experience to succeed beyond school.

A WHOLE-SCHOOL APPROACH TO CAREERS

At West Lea, careers education doesn't begin in the sixth form – it starts from day one.

From their earliest years at Meridian Campus, learners begin developing the life and work skills they'll need in adulthood. Whether they're role-playing shops, learning to communicate, travelling independently, or exploring different job roles, we're always helping them to take steps towards a bright and independent future. See our careers roadmap at bit.ly/careers_roadmap.

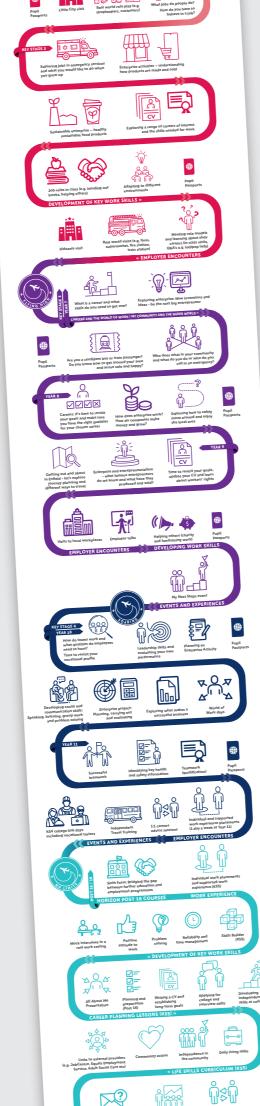
We're proud to take a long-term, whole-school approach to preparing learners for life – helping them build confidence, independence, and a clear sense of what's possible.

INTRODUCING HORIZON WORKS

Horizon Works is where everything comes together – it's the point where learners get to put their skills into practice in real workplace settings.

This two-year employability programme is for young people aged 16 to 25 with an education, health, and care plan (EHCP), and includes two tailored pathways:

- Junior interns (previously known as our pre-internship programme) start by building independence, practising travel skills, learning about the workplace, and taking part in job tasters.
- Senior interns (formerly our supported internship programme) move into structured work placements designed to lead to paid employment. Each intern is supported by a job coach, employer mentor, and a personalised programme that matches their strengths and needs.



WHY IT MATTERS

Supported internships, like Horizon Works, lead to improved employment outcomes for young people with SEND.

The impact speaks for itself:

- 80% of senior interns who complete the programme move into paid work.
- 90% of those stay in employment.
- We're currently supporting 60 interns at any one time 15 juniors and 45 seniors.

And it's not just our learners who benefit. Employers gain access to loyal, hardworking candidates who bring new energy and fresh perspectives to the workplace. We provide:

- Training and support for line managers and teams.
- Help with Access to Work funding applications.
- Ongoing guidance to ensure every placement is a success.

Our job coaches support interns, families, and employers every step of the way – making sure everyone feels confident and prepared.

"West Lea's programme supported our daughter step by step into work. She now travels independently, and her confidence has soared. We never imagined this was possible."

- Parent



FIND OUT MORE

To see our full careers curriculum, scan the QR code or go the link below.

bit.ly/careers_roadmap

SUPPORT OUR MOVEMENT

We know that the right job is about more than income – it brings purpose, independence, and connection. Horizon Works helps young people step into the world with confidence.

We partner with Learning for Life Charity, Enfield's Enterprise Cooperative Trust, and a growing network of local employers to create meaningful work placements and long-term employment opportunities.

Horizon Works is more than just a programme – it's a movement to challenge perceptions, open doors, and show that with the right support, every young person can thrive in the workplace.

We match interns with roles that reflect their personal interests and align with the needs of the local economy. Whether it's a bustling kitchen, a digital design studio, a care setting, or a building site, our interns are proving just how much they have to offer.

If you're an employer, supporter, or community member and would like to help us create opportunities, we'd love to hear from you.

Together, we can build a more inclusive future – one job at a time.

Harry delivers for global tech firm



We invited Harry's job coach, Jon Stock, to share his story.

After completing Horizon Sixth and two further education placements at a local college, Harry knew he was ready for work. He joined Horizon Works and was soon matched with a role in the mailroom of a global

technology company based in Covent Garden.

At first, Harry was nervous about the travel and meeting new people. With the encouragement of his family, I supported Harry with a period of travel training, and he quickly felt able to journey into central London independently.

Harry started his role by sorting parcels and learning the ropes behind the scenes. Slowly, he began greeting colleagues and handling customer-facing tasks. Now he's cracking jokes, singing in the office, and taking pride in his role. He has become a confident, social, and highly valued member of the post room team.

In his parents' words: "We are blown away by how far Harry has come in such a short space of time. The support from West Lea and his placement provider has been exceptional. We never imagined he'd be travelling into London and working at such a well-known company."

Bart, Harry's line manager adds: "I can't believe how quickly Harry is picking this up. Harry is a real asset to our team."







"It was a great experience being on the programme. I am now working independently. It's a dream come true to fit into a workplace."



"I joined the programme to find a job and learn new skills, to make new friends and meet new people. I also wanted to become more confident and do challenging things. I feel safe and happy with my job coach." Graduate intern









What a wonderful spring term it's been at Meridian. There's so much to celebrate, and we're excited to share some of the highlights with you.

This term, the children have loved getting involved in National Careers Week, National Storytelling Week, and World Book Day. These enriching events have brought our curriculum to life in new ways – with plenty of smiles and laughter along the way.

Careers Week was a real highlight, sparking curiosity and conversations about the world of work. At Springfield Road, learners met a fire crew, school nurse, dental hygienist, and underground engineer. Each visitor shared their story, inspiring our young people to dream big.



Over at Dyson's Road, the theme was emergency services. Learners met members of the fire service and police, as well as some amazing family visitors who spoke about their jobs. The fire service visit was a clear favourite, especially when the

At Meridian, we're big believers in learning through play. It's how we help children connect with the

children got to try out

the hose!

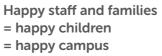
National Curriculum in ways that are both fun and meaningful. Whether through games, songs, or hands-on activities, our brilliant team makes learning accessible and engaging. We're so proud of how

every child has embraced their learning this term.

It's also been a joy to connect with families during Family Tuesdays and our online Parent Dinner Dates. We've especially loved hearing your success stories about how PODD visuals are supporting communication both at home and in school. If you haven't yet joined a session, look for the details in our weekly Spotlights – we'd love to welcome you.



Inviting families into school helps bring our magic formula to life:



It's a simple approach that helps learners #TakeOff in both their education and personal development.

And finally, we're excited to say that spring has officially arrived at Forest School. The children have been hard at work, digging, weeding, and preparing the soil for planting. This year, we'll be growing flowers, herbs, salad, and vegetables - and we can't wait to use our home-grown crops in cooking lessons later in the year.

Here's to sunshine, new growth, and another exciting term ahead.







What an exciting time we've had at Haselbury during National Careers Week. From 3rd to 10th March, our learners explored the world of hospitality and catering – discovering potential careers, developing new skills, and applying their learning in fun and meaningful ways.

Our Year 9s stepped into the world of professional cooking in the state-of-the-art kitchen at Horizon Campus. They whipped up a storm, preparing a delicious range of dishes including vegetable tagine with naan, vegetarian chilli with tacos, and coconut curry. But their creativity didn't stop there – they also designed websites and menus for their very own pop-up restaurants, transforming their classrooms into vibrant dining spaces.







Our Year 8 learners headed behind the scenes at a Greggs warehouse to learn about packaging, labelling, and distribution. They even got to sample some of the food – a definite highlight!

Meanwhile, our Year 7s teamed up with Bread n Butter to bake sweet treats for a charity cake sale. They practised teamwork, followed instructions, and developed time management skills – all key ingredients for success in any workplace.



Throughout the week, learners built valuable skills like communication, customer service, design, creativity, and leadership. It was a joy to see their confidence grow as they showcased their talents.

As we look ahead, we'll continue supporting learners to reflect on their strengths, interests, and skills – the building blocks for a successful future.







In Year 9, we'll explore specific roles within chosen sectors in more depth. Questions like, "What are you good at?" "What interests you?" and "What skills do you already have?" help guide our learners on their

But for now, we're celebrating a fantastic Careers Week. Well done, everyone!



Head of School







It's been a fantastic spring term at Learning for Life, filled with energy, hands-on learning, and lots of opportunities to grow.

Our Lanthaler students have gained valuable experience through a range of work placements. Some took part in supported work experience at Redbridge Lakes, while others embraced the challenge of independent roles at our charity shop, local primary schools, and other exciting settings.

These real-world opportunities are key to building confidence and practical life and work skills – and they're a big part of what makes West Lea so special.





Literacy has also been in the spotlight this term, with a dedicated Drop Day designed to boost word skills and spark a love of reading and writing.

Arnold Class has started their college journey at CONEL, taking those exciting next steps into further education. Meanwhile, Wright Class continues to thrive at Horizon Campus, embracing new learning and broadening their knowledge.



Earlier this month, all our learners took part in Careers Day. They explored different job roles, learned about the skills and qualities needed in the workplace, and thought about their own aspirations for the future. It was a brilliant day, full of curiosity, excitement, and thoughtful discussions.









As we wrap up the term, we're incredibly proud of everything our learners have achieved – and we're excited for what the summer term will bring.

THESPINA SKARPELLIS
Head of School





As spring begins and the days grow longer and brighter, there's already so much to celebrate at Horizon Campus.



It's been a busy and exciting term across both our Ponders End and St Mary's sites, with learners getting involved in a wide range of experiences – both in school and out in the community. Regular work placements continue to provide hands-

on learning, and a recent trip to the British Library was a big hit. Students explored how books are made – and even had a go at binding their own.

At Ponders End, our sixth formers have been focusing on communication skills as part of their English speaking and listening assessments. They've also been enjoying a new workshop in their Creative lessons, exploring themes like music, spoken word, poetry, and rap.



Over in PE, Mr Haji has joined the team and is already making an impact. His energetic lessons are helping students set and work towards personal fitness goals – we're hoping these healthy habits will last well beyond the typical New Year resolutions!



We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Havva Ali, our new assistant headteacher, to Horizon. She's had a great start and is really enjoying getting to know students and staff alike.



Our junior interns (previously known as pre-interns) have completed their group placement at the Athenaeum Hotel and are now getting ready to start individual placements. We can't wait to hear how they get on.

Meanwhile, many of our senior interns (formerly called supported interns) are thriving in their current work placements – and we're already hearing about contracts of employment being drawn up. A huge well done to them.





National Careers Week in March gave us a brilliant opportunity to celebrate future pathways and the world of work. Highlights included an industry exploration morning, a careers assembly, and a careers fair – but the standout moment was seeing some of our graduate interns return to talk to current students about their work. They were inspiring role models, showing just what's possible with the right amount of support and determination.

We're now preparing for the official opening of our Ponders End site – and the Student Council is stepping up to lead the way. From greeting guests to serving refreshments and giving campus tours, our student leaders are ready to shine. We look forward to sharing more on this special event very soon.

KIKA CHARALAMBOUS Head of School

School Council **Update**

YOU SAID, WE DID

Our Student Council has been working hard to make sure the voices of all our learners are heard – and acted upon. Through regular meetings and feedback sessions, students have shared ideas on how to make school life even better.

From new lunchtime clubs and exciting trips to fireside treats and after-school activities, their



suggestions are helping to shape a positive, inclusive, and engaging experience across all our campuses.

Here's a snapshot of what learners asked for – and the changes we've made together.



MERIDIAN CAMPUS - DYSONS ROAD

You said: "We love being rewarded for our efforts."

We did: We're making sure every success is recognised. From weekly celebration assemblies and postcards to phone calls home and reward stickers. We're celebrating the many ways you show you're Ready, Safe and Kind.





MERIDIAN CAMPUS - SPRINGFIELD ROAD

You said: "We'd love more Forest School time."

We did: We lit the campfire and got toasting! You've taken part in fireside sessions, learned how to stay safe, and baked marshmallows as part of your outdoor learning.







HASELBURY CAMPUS

You said: "We'd like more lunchtime clubs, please."

We did: We added more clubs and created a clear timetable, so you know what's on and when. With up to three lunchtime clubs each day, there's something for everyone – from art to sport to games.



LEARNING FOR LIFE CAMPUS

You said: "We'd like more trips and visitors to help bring our learning to life."

We did: You've been out and about across London – from Madame Tussauds and Harrods to the South Bank and St Paul's Cathedral. At school, we've welcomed special guests including a British diplomat and celebrity entrepreneur Levi Roots, all linked to our Life & Work curriculum.





HORIZON CAMPUS

You said: "Can we have more lunchtime and after-school activities?"

We did: We launched three new after-school clubs - Art, Fun Fitness, and Sports – plus a weekly Computer Club. In the common room, there are now even more board and card games, and the new outdoor table football has been a massive hit. A tournament is on its way – watch this space.

Pastoral update

As West Lea's Head of Pastoral Development and Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), I'm passionate about doing everything I can to help our learners stay safe - both in the real world and online.

I wanted to take a moment to share some recent work I've been involved in that I hope will help protect not just the children at West Lea, but vulnerable young people across Enfield and beyond.

As many of you will know, children and young people with additional needs can face unique challenges as they grow up and become more independent. Sadly, this can sometimes make them more vulnerable to those who want to take advantage - particularly when it comes to criminal or sexual exploitation. That might include being pressured into doing something they don't want to do, like carrying drugs or stealing, often through false promises or threats.

A few years ago, I contacted The Children's Society to ask if they had any learning resources on exploitation that would be suitable for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). At the time, they didn't – but they asked if I would like to help create one.

That was the start of an incredible 18-month collaboration with a team of professionals from across the borough. Together, we developed Aidan's Story – a resource designed to help children and young people with SEND understand the risks and warning signs of exploitation in a way that feels relatable and safe.

Aidan's Story follows a fictional character – a young person with unidentified needs – who begins to struggle at school and eventually becomes involved in country lines activity. It's presented as a graphic novel, with carefully designed visuals, accessible language, and thoughtful formatting to make it as inclusive and engaging as possible.

think I'm stupid."



As well as the resource itself, we also developed training for professionals, focused on how to work sensitively and effectively with young people with SEND or who have speech, language, and communication needs.

Since launching Aidan's Story in 2023, we've delivered training to schools, police officers, social workers, youth workers, and other professionals across the country. Most recently, I had the privilege of presenting at a series of national conferences run by the National County Lines Coordination Centre, alongside Freddie Nickolds from The Children's Society. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and it's been a joy to see how many people are keen to use the resource in their own settings.



Throughout these sessions, we've focused on the importance of trauma-informed practice, neuroscience, executive function, and sensory needs – and how to use visuals and communication tools to help young people feel safe, understood, and supported.

It's been an honour to share some of the everyday practices we use here at West Lea. As I always say: what's good for SEND learners is good for all

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Terminology

Neurodiversity

Some people's brains work in a different way. These differences are not deficits. disorders or impairments

Neurodivergent

Neurodivergent is used to describe a person whose brain - including their way of thinking and processing information - works in a different way to most of the population







Challenges neurodiverse young people may face









targets and assume that the victin

We want every young person to grow up with the confidence and understanding to keep themselves safe – and for every adult around them to feel equipped to help. That's what this work is all about. As a mum of two boys who grew up – and still lives

and works – in the borough of Enfield, I understand the challenges many families face.

At West Lea, I'm fortunate to work with a fantastic team who share my vision of changing the narrative around 'needs.' Together, we focus on each learner's strengths, interests, and aspirations – helping every individual achieve their personal best, rather than defining them by their challenges.

If you'd like to know more about how we support safeguarding at West Lea or have any questions about this work, we are always happy to talk.

You can trust us to listen with empathy, without judgement, and always with your child's wellbeing at heart.

You can reach us on safeguarding@westleaschool.co.uk







Enterprise Cooperative Trust

#EnfieldWorks: A bold new campaign to unlock potential and create bright futures

The Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) is proud to be launching **Enfield Works**.

Officially launching on 12th June at Enfield Civic Centre, the event is being co-hosted with ECT trustee, Brett Leahy, Strategic Director of Planning, Growth & Infrastructure at Enfield Council. It marks the start of an ambitious five-year campaign:

"Enfield Works: Unlocking Potential, Creating Bright Futures."

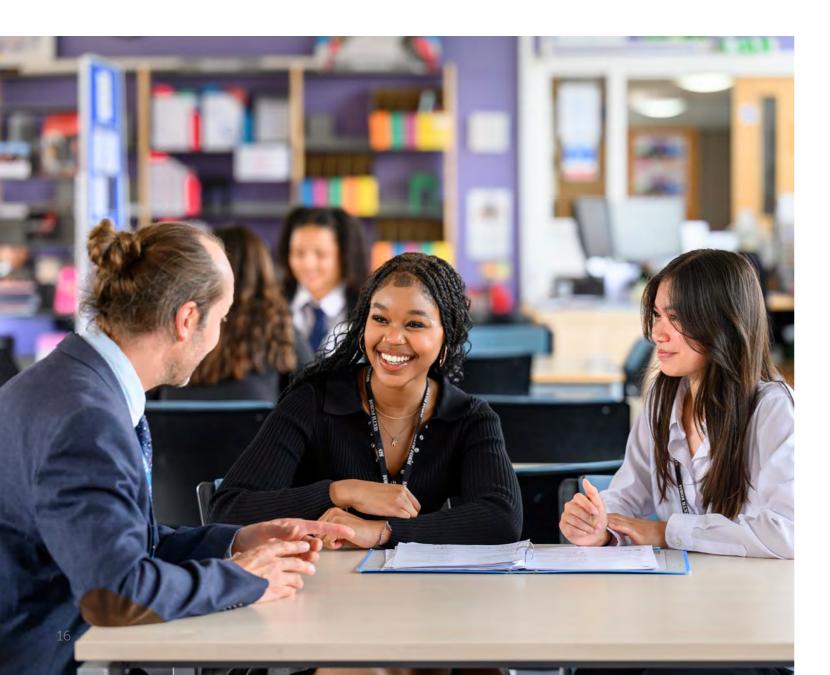
Our mission is simple but vital – to work alongside local employers to create thousands of quality employment opportunities for young people in Enfield by 2030.

We believe that Enfield works best when we work together. That's why we're calling on businesses, education providers, charities, community groups, and passionate individuals to help shape the future of our borough. Whether you run a local business, want to offer work experience or mentoring, take part in research, or simply share your views, there are many ways to get involved.

You can register your interest now at:

enterprisecooperativetrust.org.uk/enfield-works

We'll be updating this page regularly with exciting opportunities and announcements, including details of how to get involved.



OUR FOUR PORTFOLIOS OF WORK AND STRATEGIC GOALS

Founded by West Lea in June 2022, the ECT is a not-for-profit foundation cooperative. It brings together schools, charities, businesses, community organisations, and local government, all united by a shared mission: breaking down barriers and creating life-changing opportunities for young people who face significant challenges.

The trust's work is focused on achieving the following by 2028:

- Enterprise in Action generating new income through business partnering
- Powerful Partnerships building strong links across sectors
- Educational Improvement shaping an industry-backed vocational curriculum
- Authentic Advocacy leading research to improve employment outcomes



The trust's work spans four focus areas, each designed to remove barriers and unlock opportunities for young people.

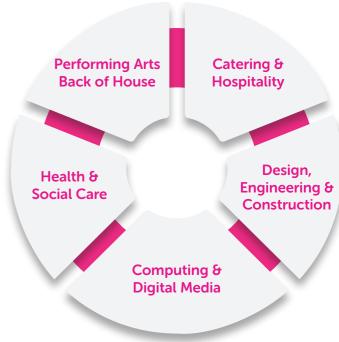


With the launch of **Enfield Works**, the trust is stepping into a new chapter – one that turns local talent in local success stories.

Let's build a future together where **every young person in Enfield has a chance to thrive.**







Trust schools and sector specialists are shaping a vocational curriculum to prepare learners for life beyond the classroom.

Learning for Life Charity

At Learning for Life Charity (LFLC), we believe every young person deserves the chance to gain work skills, confidence, and a sense of purpose. Our two charity shops — Life in the Town (Enfield town) and Life on the Green (Edmonton Green) — offer just that.

These vibrant, welcoming spaces provide real-world work experience for young people with learning difficulties. Whether they're learning how to serve customers, work as part of a team, manage stock, or run a till, the skills they're building are stepping stones to future employment.

- In Life in the Town, we focus on upcycling furniture – offering hands-on experience in restoring and repurposing.
- In Life on the Green, learners get stuck into sorting, preparing, and selling clothing, books, bric-a-brac, and more.

But our shops aren't just for learners. They're also a fantastic way for members of the community – including parents and carers – to get involved.







WE URGENTLY NEED VOLUNTEERS

Can you spare just two hours a week between 10am and 3.30pm, Monday to Friday? If so, we'd love to welcome you to our team.

Our charity shops are enjoyable, busy spaces filled with donated items that need sorting, preparing, and selling – both in-store and online. Your time and support will help us:

- Give young people hands-on work experience
- Keep our shops running smoothly
- Promote sustainability by giving pre-loved items a second life

Whether you're looking to build your own skills, give something back, or simply meet new people – volunteering with us is a brilliant way to make a real difference. **Interested?**

Email us at

info@learningforlifecharity.co.uk to arrange a chat. We'd love to hear from you.



OLIVIA WITTICH
LFLC Operations Director



West Lea in the news

WELCOMING FERYAL CLARKE MP TO HORIZON CAMPUS

It was a pleasure to welcome Feryal Clark, Labour MP for Enfield North, to our new Horizon Campus site in Ponders End.

Led by our brilliant Student Council leaders, Feryal was given a full tour of the campus and saw lessons in action. She visited our new catering suite, where students were busy baking scones and dropped into a creative media lesson in our brand-new media suite, where learners were building websites.

As we walked and talked, learners proudly shared what they enjoy about campus life – from lessons

in English and Maths to relaxing, socialising, and playing games in our communal areas.

The Student Council leaders also spoke about their roles and how they were elected by their peers. They explained how they represent the student voice and help shape campus life by listening to feedback and turning it into action.

It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our modern, industry-relevant facilities – and the young people who are bringing them to life.













Our campuses









Key term dates **2025**

SPRING TERM

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 - School closed to learners

Tuesday 22nd April

Start of Summer Term - Learners return to school

Wednesday 23rd April

Supported Internship Open Evening, 5-6pm at Horizon Campus, Ponders End

Monday 5th May

Bank Holiday - School closed to learners

Monday 12th to Friday 16th May

Mental Health Awareness Week

Wednesday 21st May

Supported Internship Open Evening, 5-6pm at Horizon Campus, Ponders End

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

Thursday 26th June

Transition day for Meridian Campus

Monday 30th June

Learning for Life Campus Trip

Haselbury Campus Creative Day

Monday 7th July

Summer Concert, Meridian Campus, Dysons Road, 2pm

Tuesday 8th July

Sports Day, Meridian Campus, Dysons Road

Wednesday 9th to Friday 11th July

Learning for Life Campus Residential

Thursday 10th July

Sports Day, Haselbury Campus

Friday 11th July

Sports Day, Meridian Campus, Springfield Road

Last day of term for Year 11 and Horizon learners

Friday 18th July

Graduation, Haselbury Campus, 9.30-10.45am

Monday 21st July

Graduation, Meridian Campus, Dysons Road, 2pm

Tuesday 22nd July

Graduation, Meridian Campus, Springfield Road, 2pm

Last day of Summer Term for Reception to Year 10 learners



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