

### Welcome

Dear Families,

As 2025 comes to an end, we are pleased to share our final newsletter of the year. We want to celebrate our learners' achievements and thank everyone for their ongoing support.

This term has been busy, joyful, and full of learning across all our campuses. Learners at Meridian have enjoyed hands-on, work-related activities. At Haselbury, students have been helping to plan new in-house work experience opportunities that will begin in the new year. Learners at Learning for Life have explored a wide range of vocational skills. At Horizon, students have taken part in exciting new work tasters, and our interns have proudly begun their new internship placements. Across the school, our learners continue to show effort, courage, and a strong willingness to learn every day.

These opportunities help them build real work skills, confidence, and a sense of pride in what they can achieve. This is at the heart of our Employment for All offer, which supports every learner—from early years to post-16—to experience what it is like to step into the world of work.

We would like to thank our colleagues, families, employers, and partners for their kindness, encouragement, and partnership. Together, we are creating a school community where every learner can grow, succeed, and feel truly valued.

As we look ahead to the new year, we invite employers and families to help us create even more opportunities for our learners. If you would like to become an employer partner, or know someone who might, we would be delighted to hear from you.

On behalf of everyone at West Lea, we wish you and your loved ones a joyful Christmas, a peaceful holiday, and a very Happy New Year.

Paul Quinn CEO

**Melanie Bignold**Director of Education

Renee Flourentzou Director of Education



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#### West Lea School

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## Creating a World of Opportunities: **Employment for All**

At West Lea, we believe every learner has the right to dream about a bright future.

Almost ten years ago, we started our Employment for All strategy with one simple goal: to help every learner discover their strengths and find a job they enjoy, no matter their additional needs.

#### **HOW FAR WE'VE COME**

Since starting this programme, we have created clear pathways that support learners from early years all the way into adulthood.

Around 8 out of 10 learners who complete the Supported Internship Programme at Horizon Campus go on to paid work. This success is possible because of their own hard work, strong partnerships with employers and dedicated support from their families and the school.

Every year, families share their stories with us. They talk about how the programme has changed their lives, how their children have grown in confidence, started earning their own money, and felt truly included in their communities. These moments remind us why this work matters so much.













#### How We Help Our Learners—Our Journey **Starts Early**

#### Meridian Campus

#### FIRST STEPS INTO THE WORLD OF WORK

Learn about different jobs

Gain hands-on experience through World of Work activities Practice real-life skills in a fun Mini Role-Play City



#### **Haselbury Campus**



#### **FIRST TASTE OF WORK**

Meet employers during Careers Week Apply for jobs around school Access tasters and exciting work opportunities

#### **Learning for Life Campus**



#### **EXPLORING INDUSTRIES**

Learn about six different types of industries Participate in weekly work experience for a term Gain confidence and practical skills



#### **Horizon Campus**



#### **EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMMES**

Continue to access work experience in the 6th form Join Junior or Senior Internships and spend time in real workplaces Get hands-on experience for future jobs



#### **WORKING TOGETHER**

This year, we are working with the Enterprise Cooperative Trust (ECT) that brings schools, charities, and local businesses together. Through the Enfield Works campaign, ECT helps us connect with even more employers across Enfield. This means more opportunities and chances for our learners to learn about real jobs.





#### **JOIN US**

We've come a long way, but we need your support to make an even bigger impact. It takes a whole community to open doors, create opportunities, and flourish together.

If you are an employer or know someone who can support our learners, we invite you to make a difference and change a life.

Contact our Employer Engagement Advisor, Leane Bosquet

LBosquet@westleaschool.co.uk | westleasip.co.uk/get-in-touch/



Scan the QR

code to get











#### Learning, Growing, and Exploring Together

As we end 2025, we are proud to celebrate all the learning and progress our learners have made at our campus. From the Early Years, learners begin building skills for life and the journey towards adulthood and work.

Routines help them be ready to learn, and we use songs, visuals, and fun activities to teach structure and independence. Our curriculum introduces life and work skills from day one.

Our catering curriculum helps learners explore different foods by tasting, feeling, and smelling them. They learn skills like washing, peeling, and cutting ingredients before moving on to Haselbury Campus, where cooking lessons become more traditional, focusing on preparing meals and snacks. It's wonderful to see our learners gradually become comfortable with new tastes, textures, and smells as they prepare for adulthood.





Road safety lessons start in the Early Years too. Our learners practise crossing roads safely at our school zebra crossing before moving on to real-life experiences in the local community.

During Careers Week, learners meet people from different local jobs. Each week, they take part in work-skills lessons and they also run WestCo, a small enterprise where

they learn about buying and selling. These activities give learners fun, practical experiences of work life.







In January 2026, we are excited to launch our very own 'Meridian Village', a miniature town where our learners can practise everyday skills through fun, real-life activities. Families will be invited to explore it at upcoming events.

It has been a fantastic term, and we look forward to another year of learning, growth, and new adventures.

> **EMMA DRIVER Head of School**



to help learners prepare for future success.

Since September, we have been running performing arts workshops that have been very engaging. Each class worked for four weeks with a visiting drama teacher. These sessions encouraged creativity while helping learners develop important skills such as communication, teamwork, and confidence. Seeing the learners enjoy these sessions was a real highlight of the term.









Our curriculum also included more practical learning opportunities. This year, each class took part in a print-making workshop. The process taught planning, communication, and flexibility, skills that are valuable in many careers. Omar, Gallagher, Fox, Brannigan, and Simmonds classes all produced some









We are also expanding our approach to workplace skills on campus. For the March 2026 Career Fair, we will create a mock 'High Street' for learners to gain practical work skills. With support from our school council, we are introducing an in-house work experience scheme where learners will apply for roles such as Site Manager, Post Officer, and Eco Supervisor. Our school council is currently busy creating job descriptions for some of these roles.





In our Life & Work Curriculum, year 7 and 8 learners are developing healthy meal preparation, while year 9 learners focus on food sustainability. These activities build confidence and practical skills essential for future employment.

Year 9 learners will also visit Capel Manor College and Horizon Campus to explore careers in animal care, horticulture, and catering, helping with a smooth transition to future employment.

We are incredibly proud of our learners this term and look forward to celebrating their achievements. As we head into the festive season, we are excited to see them shine even brighter in the year ahead.

**Head of School** 



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#### **Expanding Vocational Opportunities**

This year has been full of exciting opportunities for our learners. We added more vocational options to help them explore different career paths, discover what they enjoy, and learn real skills for the future.

Learners have taken part in many different courses. At Capel Manor, they joined Animal Care and Horticulture, where they worked with plants and animals and learned how to look after them. This experience helped them feel responsible, an important life skill for the future. Others explored Construction and Esports at CONEL, learning about both traditional trades and innovative digital industries. Catering and Hospitality at Horizon gave learners the chance to practice catering skills in a professional kitchen.

These experiences help learners build confidence, develop practical skills, and understand expectations around different jobs. Our Life and Work curriculum supports this by teaching employability skills, workplace behaviour, and helps them to plan future careers. Career Advisors start working with learners in Year 10, giving personal guidance to help them make the right choices for their next steps.





In Year 10, learners take part in World of Work Days, visiting different industries such as factories, sports facilities, and animal care centres. These visits help them connect classroom learning with real-life work.

As learners move into Year 11, they take on a term of work experience to put their skills into practice. These placements, whether supported or independent, give them the chance to build confidence, improve communication, and understand what employers expect. This autumn, Dutoit Class successfully completed independent placements in charity shops, leisure centres, cafés, and retail stores.



Kingsley, a Year 11 learner, spent his placement at Laurel Park School's canteen, where he actively supported lunch service setup and cleanup for students and enjoyed learning about kitchen operations. He particularly valued working with the staff team and sampling meals prepared by the head chef, George, and his team.

We look forward to seeing our learners move into post-16 at Horizon, where they will keep building the skills they need for adult life and future jobs. Here's to another year of growth and opportunity.

> THESPINA SKARPELLIS **Head of School**



#### **Celebrating Achievements and New Beginnings**

As the year comes to an end, we're reflecting on the incredible achievements of our learners at our campus. It's an exciting time as learners are stepping confidently into adulthood, gaining independence, and preparing for real jobs.

Our second year at the new Horizon site has opened doors to amazing opportunities. Learners have been exploring what comes next after their vocational subjects. Year 13 students met employers from different industries and visited Barnet and Southgate College to discover courses that will help them continue their studies.

Since we believe learning goes beyond the classroom, we've encouraged Horizon Sixth students to gain real work experience. Some spent time at St Aldhelm's, putting their skills into practice and learning what it's like to work in a professional setting.



These experiences prepare them for their next big step, our Horizon Works Programmes. From junior to senior internships, learners are building confidence and work skills. This year, junior interns started placements through our new partnership with Hertfordshire Zoo, and the feedback has been incredible.



Our Senior interns are settling well into their placements. Job Coach Angela shared: "We're very impressed with our interns at Greggs. After just three shifts, they're completing tasks independently." Similarly, Marvin added how the learners are ready to learn new tasks and take on longer shifts. Jon was amazed by the progress and mentioned that he has seen remarkable growth in confidence, even after one shift. At a central London office, he noticed how an intern's body language changed as they became familiar with people and tasks.







Over the years, we've supported 143 young people into employment. They are role models for our young learners, proof that with the right support, big dreams can come true.

> **KIKA CHARALAMBOUS Head of School**

## **School Council**

## **The Voice That Supports Every Learner**

This year, our Student Council has truly made their mark. From leading projects to supporting their peers, they have shown how student voice can shape a stronger, more inclusive school community.

The council supports Employment for All, helping peers build confidence and skills for life beyond school. They are also planning an exciting Careers Week, giving learners the chance to meet local employers and explore different careers, showing how student voice can make real change.

One council member said, "We want more jobs! Leading projects like recycling helps us learn and make a difference."

Council members are also working to make school life even better. They are improving playground activities, making sure all spaces are fun and inclusive.







They actively promote our school rules, 'Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Kind' by modelling positive behaviour and encouraging others to do the same.

Leadership goes beyond the council. Our learners take on roles across the school, from mentoring peers to supporting events. One new initiative is the Recycling Box Project, aimed at reducing waste and promoting sustainability. Recycling boxes will be placed in classrooms, and learners who become 'Green Monitors' collect and manage recycling each week. This project teaches teamwork, organisation, and environmental responsibility, skills that also prepare them for future employment.

This year, the Student Council has shown that when learners lead, we flourish together. Their hard work, creativity, and commitment inspire us all and we can't wait to see what they achieve in the year ahead.









# A Parent's Story: **Supporting Renee for Work**

Getting ready for work is an emotional journey for both learners and their families.

At West Lea, success comes from working together with support from school, job coaches, families, and the wider community. Parents and carers play an important role by helping with routines at home, building confidence, supporting travel and time management, and staying in touch with school and job coaches.



For Nina Stafford, the biggest hope was that her daughter Renee, a former West Lea learner, would find a job that gave her a sense of purpose and independence. Through the Supported Internship Programme, Renee moved from a senior internship to a full-time paid role at a local nursery, a huge milestone. Nina acknowledges, "She was fortunate to have work experience there during her time at West Lea, which gave her a bit of a head start."

Nina dreamed of Renee travelling on her own and being surrounded by kind, supportive colleagues. But there were worries too: would she cope with the job, manage her health needs, and speak up for herself? Nina shares, "I knew there would be curveballs along the way, and that's part of the journey."

"My advice is to trust the process. It may not be plain sailing, but I promise you, it really is worth it."

Nina Stafford





Renee's job coach, Pani, was incredibly supportive from day one. He guided her colleagues and stayed in touch even after his regular visits ended. To help Renee prepare, they practised the journey together and broke everything down into small, manageable steps. Nina recognises, "West Lea feels like a family, and that support has been everything. It's such a loving environment where everyone pushes for the young people to be as independent as they can be."

Today, Renee loves her job and has grown in confidence. She now walks to work independently and feels more in control of her life. "Work gives her a sense of worth and place in the world," Nina shares. Her manager and team have been wonderfully supportive, and open communication has helped Renee flourish.

Looking back, Nina's advice to other parents is simple: "Be patient. This transition takes time, and while the worry never completely disappears, that's okay. My advice is to trust the process. It may not be plain sailing, but I promise you, it really is worth it. I don't know where Renee would be without the internship process and West Lea's support."

West Lea is always looking for parents, carers, and local employers who want to help learners like Renee succeed. Get in touch and make a difference, scan the QR code or go to:

westleasip.co.uk/get-in-touch/





## Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

The programme is for children and young people in Reception - Year 11. This season's dates are 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th & 31st December 2025.

Children receive a hot meal each day and attending the programmes keep them active, fed and engaged so ready to come back to school after the holidays.



This is a DfE funded programme and free for those in receipt of benefit related school meals.

To see the full brochure, scan the QR code or go to: westleaschool.co.uk/community/haf-winter-2025/

#### **Chickenshed Christmas Shows**

#### **Christmas Tales**

**Until: Monday 29 December** 

Packed with dancing, music, rhymes, stories, puppets, and plenty of laughter, Christmas Tales is the perfect way for families to celebrate the season together.

#### RED

**Until: Saturday 10th January** 

Magical, surprising and unforgettable.
With a cast of over 200 performers, original music, stunning sets and spectacular design, RED is a thrilling theatrical event for audiences of all ages.

#### To book please visit: chickenshed.org.uk/shows



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## **Learning for Life Charity**

### CREATING REAL EXPERIENCES THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT

This time of the year reminds us how powerful the community can be. Thanks to your support, our learners have learned new skills, grown in confidence, and taken steps towards brighter futures.

Our mission is to create real chances to work. We support young people aged 14–25 with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and underprivileged young people in Enfield by giving them hands-on experiences that build confidence, independence, and employability.

We believe that with the right support, every young person can thrive. Work may look different for everyone, but everyone can contribute when given the chance.













This year, our programmes have continued to grow:

Life in the Green and Life in the Town: Our charity shops where learners gain retail experience and practise creative upcycling.

**Baking & Barista Project:** Every Tuesday at St Aldham's Church, students learn baking and coffeemaking skills in partnership with West Lea School.

All Works of Life: Our print and design social enterprise at Fortuna, where learners create personalised items for the public.

**Post-Employment Support:** Ongoing job coaching for West Lea graduates after their supported internships, helping them move into paid work.

#### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Community support is what keeps these opportunities alive. We are looking for volunteers who want to make a real difference. The roles are:

Charity Shop Assistants: Support our Edmonton and Enfield shops while helping learners build retail and customer service skills.

**Van Driver:** Mondays (up to 6 hours) for furniture collection and delivery.



Join our community of supporters and become a volunteer today.

Scan the QR code or visit: learningforlifecharity.co.uk/ join-the-team

OLIVIA WITTICH
LFLC Operations Director

# Key Term Dates 2026

#### **SPRING TERM**

#### Monday 5th January

First day of Spring term - Learners return to school

#### Wednesday 21st January

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### **Tuesday 10th February**

Spring Progress Meetings: 3:10 pm - 4:30pm

#### Wednesday 11th February

Spring Progress Meetings - School closed from 12:30 pm

Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February Half Term - School closed to learners

#### Monday 23rd February 2026

First day of Spring Term 2 - learners return to school

#### Wednesday 25th February

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### Monday 2nd March

Careers Week

#### Wednesday 18th March

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### Friday 27th March

Last day of Spring Term

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April Spring break - School closed to learners

#### **SUMMER TERM**

#### Monday 13th April

First day of Summer Term 1 - learners return to school

#### Wednesday 15th April

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday - School closed to learners

#### Wednesday 20th May

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### Friday 22nd May

End of Summer Term 1

Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May Half Term - School closed to learners

#### Monday 1st June

First day of Summer Term 2 - learners return to school

#### Wednesday 10th June

Horizon Works Open Evening at Ponders End: 5pm - 6pm

#### Wednesday 17th June

Parent/carer meetings - School closes at 12.30pm for learners

#### Thursday 2nd July

Last Day for Year 11 and Horizon students

#### Friday 3rd - Tuesday 8th July

Year 13 residentials

#### Friday 10th July

Year 11 and 6th Form learners - last day of Summer Term

#### Friday 17th July

Reception to Year 10 - last day of Summer Term

#### Monday 20th July

**INSET Day - School closed to learners** 

Tuesday 21st July - 31st August

Summer Holiday - School closed to learners

