

NEWSLETTER

NEW HORIZONS
JULY 2018

HORIZONS
ACADEMY
BEXLEY



» FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER



Welcome to our first Horizons Academy end of term newsletter! It has been a very successful term with lots of learning and engagement in enrichment activities as well as the culmination of eleven years of schooling for our leavers as they completed their GCSE examinations in June.

High points this term have been the Year 11 Leavers BBQ at Welling. Our leavers clearly had mixed feelings about moving on as expressed in their comments later in this newsletter, both excited about future prospects and naturally apprehensive about leaving familiar surroundings where they have experienced success.

There have been significant changes in attitude to learning and behaviour demonstrated by many pupils this term as they have grown in confidence and built trusting relationships with staff. For pupils who have been permanently excluded, it is difficult to trust that school staff will persevere

with them in spite of the challenges presented. However, one thing we can promise as an organisation is that we will not give up on any pupil. For many, our school is their last chance of securing a positive pathway back to mainstream or gaining important qualifications which are going to allow them to gain places at college or access apprenticeships or further training. Our success rate for Year 11 leavers is high with all but one pupil this year having a place at college or in employment or training from this September – well done to you all!

I would like to recognise the significant improvement in attendance and punctuality this term with most pupils now in school every day and on time. Lost learning time at a rate of half a day per week can impact on exam results and lead to one grade lower (where attendance is at 90%) if not addressed.

We are welcoming pupils back to school at our usual time on Wednesday 5th September and hope you all have a restful summer break!

Best wishes, Jo

» TERM DATES 18/19

Term 1:	03/09/2018 - 19/10/2018
Term 2:	05/11/2018 - 21/12/2018
Term 3:	07/01/2019 - 15/02/2019
Term 4:	25/02/2019 - 05/04/2019
Term 5:	23/04/2019 - 24/05/2019
Term 6:	03/06/2019 - 19/07/2019
Closures:	03/09/2018 (Training) 04/09/2018 (Training) 07/01/2019 (Training) 06/05/2019 (B Holiday) 07/05/2019 (Training) 01/07/2019 (Training)

» REINTEGRATION SUPPORT

The Outreach Service provides reintegration support to all students returning to school following the Refocus Programme or transferring to a new school following permanent exclusion. Our mission is to provide the support needed to overcome the barriers associated with reintegration and to help the student build the resilience needed to recognise, manage and respond appropriately to situations when dealing with peers and adults. Since September 2017 we have successfully supported 45 students back in to mainstream school. Whilst some have returned to us as long term students, 82% remain in their home school and continue to do well. We are very proud of the work we do, but it is the students who work the hardest to overcome their difficulties and improve their chances in school.

Student Comments:

DM - Cleeve Park School *'The 1:1 support offered to you is helpful - take full advantage of it!'*

GW - Welling School *'Try your best at your new school because they are offering you a fresh start'*

RL - Welling School *'I'm doing really well here. I'm going to in to year 11 in a few weeks and want to do well in my exams'*

JB - Trinity School *'I am really happy and my grades are improving. I was allowed to take Business and History and have my exams next year, I even revise now!'*

PJ - St Columbas School *'I have a good group of friends now and have just been told I have been recommended by my Head of Year for a HOY commendation award. I am really happy'*

KB - Trinity School *'I still find some situations difficult to manage and sometimes I get in trouble. Ms Jones helps me though and I have managed to get 20 positive points which I am proud of this term and I am getting a bronze certificate in our assembly'*

» CAREERS & TRANSITION

This academic year has been another success for the Careers & Transition staff and all the students who they have worked with, particularly the Year 11's. 100% of Year 11's have had the opportunity to have a 1-2-1 Careers Meeting as well as access to Careers and Apprenticeship Fayres. This has resulted in brilliant outcomes for our students with 8 out of the 9 Year 11 students at Endeavour Academy having a confirmed place for September and 20 out of 21 Year 11 students having a confirmed place at Horizons Academy Bexley.

The staff work within the Inclusion Team and has now grown to three members of staff. We now have two Careers & Transition Officers, Chrissie Dare who has recently completed her CIAG qualification & newly appointed Nina Rehan. As from September Chrissie will be working with Endeavour Academy students Year 7 to 11 and Nina will be working within Horizons Academy Bexley. Both members of staff will be supporting the teaching staff with the careers lessons and also working hard to achieve our overall Careers Delivery Plan aims, which can be found on our website. They will also continue to work with students following their first year of leaving school. Both members of staff are overseen by our Amie Power (Careers & Transition Co-ordinator) who is our qualified Careers Lead across all our Academies and who also works with students in their second and third year of leaving school.

As you may already be aware the Government has recently placed a much greater value and high expectations on Careers and the support offered to our young people once they leave school to ensure they remain in education, employment or training. Our students are fortunate, as we already offer a voluntary 3 year service (16-19 years) to all our students who complete their Year 11 education at one of our Academies to help them maintain placements and find alternatives if needed. This has been in place since 2015 and has been a huge success year on year. At the end of Term 5 81% of our students who have been left last year were in education, employment or training and 80% of our students who left two years ago which is excellent.

» AMIE POWER

Amie has worked with us since 2014 initially as a Teaching Assistant, moving into careers and transition area of the Inclusion Team in September



2015. Since this time she has created a structure and delivery plan across all our Academies which has enabled over 95% of our year 11's year on year, to have a confirmed post statutory destination and over 80% of our year 12 and 13 young people remain in education, employment or training. In addition to successfully completing her CIAG qualification this year to become the recognised Careers Lead, her dedication to our students and hard work has also been externally



recognised too when this year she won the Careers Teacher of the Year Award within

Bexley and also Careers Advisor of the Year within Bexley, Medway and Kent.

» MEDICAL NEEDS

Our Medical Needs Provision has seen many students come and go over the years, however historically there has been little support from external agencies and even less contact with home schools, who at times adopted an out of sight out of mind approach.

In the last few months we have seen new students join, we have also seen increased engagement from CAMHS, Family Wellbeing and pastoral teams in their mainstream schools. With the support that is now in place from these agencies, we are seeing all students in our Medical Needs Provision develop the skills needed to reintegrate into their home schools every Friday - therefore increasing their confidence, lessening their anxiety and developing their resilience to difficult situations. Not only that, the attendance of our students to Horizons on a daily basis has improved from all students being unable to attend school and engage in learning every day.

» CORINNE BOTTEN - CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



Hi, I thought you might like to hear about my work as Chair of Governors at the New Horizons group of schools. Surprisingly it's not all about meetings! As an old style governor I might have been asked to events and late night meetings to agree action plans and changes to school life which had essentially already happened - we were there to rubber stamp whatever the Head teacher wanted to do. Nowadays we have a role more central to the organisation - we set the strategic vision for the schools, we approve policies and monitor the schools at all levels and we make decisions which impact on your lives and the lives and wellbeing of our students, often for years to come.

Most recently we decided to move our schools from a Federation in partnership with the Local Authority to the London South East Academies Trust. This has expanded my role to become your representative on the Trust Board - so more meetings! But the thing I enjoy most about being your Chair of Governors is the opportunity it gives me to meet you all in your schools, to talk with you, parents and students about the future. Education is a dynamic field, always changing always challenging. At our meetings, at events and on visits to the schools I get insight into this complex world and a chance to give back my support, knowledge and skills to a really worthwhile cause - who wouldn't want that role...

Have a great Summer break you have all earned it, I look forward to seeing you all again in the Autumn - when the Merry-go-round begins again.

➤ PRIMARY SPORTS DAY

Sports day is always a great occasion, it brings out the students competitive nature and gets them working as a team. The primary students ventured onto the playing field at 1.15pm on Wednesday 11th July with eager parents ready to support their children. The teams were split as evenly as possible into Ashby's All Stars and William's Dream team. Both sides competed in 5 events which included the standing long jump, long jump, shot put, target throwing and the last event was the relay race.

It was a tight affair throughout but Ashby's All Stars just edged the contest. Every student participated throughout and most thoroughly enjoyed the day which was capped off with a great football game which the All Stars also edged 4-3. The ending ceremony saw all students receive a medal and certificates were handed out for the winning team and the runners up.



"It was intense, competitive and fun" **Kayden**

"The football match was close and the best part" **Kingsley**

"We showed we can work as a team" **Tommy**

➤ PROFILE - EMMA SLATER

What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? *I am a Pastoral Support Coordinator. I have worked in the federation for around 5 years. I started at Aspire (then Westbrooke) as a TA and was there for 2 years. I then moved to Horizons as an attendance learning mentor, after around a year this role then grew and changed to Pastoral Support Coordinator. During my time as a PSCO I have also worked at The Welling Centre and Endeavour.*



What does your job involve? *I deal with attendance and safeguarding concerns for Refocus secondary, long term and medical needs. This involves home visits, referrals to external agencies, meetings with agencies and actioning yellow forms.*

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why? *I did not enjoy school and was in trouble for talking and not paying attention in class, school was for socialising. Ironically my attendance was not great.*

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? *I wanted to be a vet but soon realised I did not like blood and was scared of a lot of animals.*

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons? *When I feel like I am making a difference to young people's lives.*

Tell us about you as a person - something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect... *I am scared of heights but have done a sky dive - which was terrifying.*

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? *Life's too short to worry!*

➤ PROFILE - ALAN FARRELL



What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? *I am the new Head of School, I am starting my post in September but have been supporting the school since March alongside Jo Southby. I have been the Deputy Head at Endeavour for 3 Years prior to this.*

What does your job involve? *As Head of School I have overall responsibility of the school and alongside my leadership team coordinate and support all our students in achieving the very best outcomes. Part of this involves supporting students back into education and providing alternatives to exclusions. I am answerable to the Executive Head, Governors and the Trust in regard to the strategic direction, Outcomes, financial management, development and leadership of Horizons Academy.*

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why? *In school I was an average student, who got in trouble only occasionally for a variety of reasons. I was very much into my sport and played for all the school teams and achieved a lot of success at local and national level. I was not a lover of academic subjects but achieved okay grades (enough to get me the courses I wanted to follow)*

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? *I loved sport in school and had the opportunity to represent my country in Athletics and two other sports. I had a dream of being a professional athlete initially and eventually realised that I need a fall back option which needed to become a reality due to an injury I had, that was when I decided I wanted to be a sports coach or a PE teacher.*

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons? *Although I am new to my role and I really enjoy the constantly changing student population, I enjoy the relationship with students and seeing them change and develop and being given opportunities which they may not have got while in other settings.*

Tell us about you as a person - something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect... *I have done many things that people would not have guessed if they met me today; I ran for the Irish Olympic squad in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m, 4x200m (indoor) and 4x400m relays team and to this day some of my records still stand in Ireland. I represented my country in Olympic Handball and at one point had a brief sponsorship deal with a well know sports label. I have been a bar manager and worked in a number of jobs from selling double glazing, working in a convenience store, care homes, counselling and as a volunteer with the Samaritans. I am also a published poet.*

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? *Be confident, take opportunities when they present themselves, you need to work hard to achieve your dreams and live life to the full and recognise the importance of friends and family. Don't waste time regretting or moaning about the things you can't change, focus on the present and the future set goals and be aspirational.*

»» GDPR

The New Horizons group and our parent organisation (London South East Colleges) have been working hard to ensure that all our academies are compliant with the new Data Protection laws (also known as the GDPR) which came into effect on the 25th May 2018. We have a new section on our website devoted to how and why we have to process your data which can be found by clicking the GDPR link at the bottom of every page on our website.

»» FREYA - MEDICAL NEEDS



Special recognition needs to go out to Freya in year 10, who has blossomed during her time with us. Despite going through a range of difficulties she has re-engaged with school and has excellent attendance. Not only has she been in school every day, she has engaged well with all professionals around her and is building her confidence on a daily basis.

An assertive, helpful and caring young lady, Freya has supported other new students in Medical Needs by being reassuring and helping them through anything they may struggle with. She has been an excellent peer mentor and clearly has a bright future ahead of her.

»» PROFILE - DEAN ASHBY



What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? *My role in Horizons academy is primary teacher for key stage 2. I have worked within the federation for three years. I also play a productive role within student voice.*

What does your job involve? *My job is teaching students whose challenging behaviour is putting them at risk of exclusion from mainstream schools. This involves not only teaching them the curriculum but also helping them to recognise their behaviour and emotions and giving them strategies to*

manage this in order that they are successful when they return to their home schools.

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why? *I was quite quiet at school, I didn't like going into school but I always had a passion for sport. I got through school by trying to be the best in every lesson. I saw school like a competition and I wanted to win.*

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? *For a long part of my schooling I didn't really know what I wanted to do when I left. What I did know was that I loved sport and this meant I choose subjects at GCSE and A-Level that I felt incorporated sport. Science was one subject I selected and I didn't really enjoy it. One day the PE teacher wasn't in and a Spanish teacher was taking a hockey lesson, she was clueless and I offered my help. I set up a four team tournament with a warm up and passing drill to start. It was a great success and I loved leading the session. From that moment I knew I wanted to teach PE.*

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons? *I love my job because I get given students who are not understood and are not given strategies to help them succeed and I get the chance to help them grow and develop. I then get to send them back to their home schools and every now and then I get told about their progress and how well they are doing. Sometimes I don't hear anything about them again then I know I've done a good job and made a difference.*

Tell us about you as a person – something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect... *When I'm not at work I'm often travelling the country or other countries playing a game called Petanque (French boules). I have been playing for 18 years and I play for both England and Kent. My club side is the best team in Kent and this year I finished 28th in the country and 2nd in Kent.*

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? *If I could give my younger self advice it would be to not let others get me down and enjoy school because you don't want to look back and think what if. I'm lucky I ended up doing something I love doing but others are not so lucky.*

»» PRIMARY REFOCUS

In Primary Refocus, we have increased our emphasis on literacy and numeracy, developing both programmes to include greater emphasis on interventions to improve understanding, by providing students with more time and targeted tasks to solidify their learning in these core subjects. Students have also had the pleasure of partaking in science, history and geography lessons that have been thematic in their approach, allowing students to explore concepts fully. From the global importance of effective transport systems, to the adventures of Ancient Egypt, to the fascinating world of economy and business development, our students have enjoyed learning about the world around them, the past, and how they link together. They have also benefitted from improving their practical skills and expanded their imaginations in physical education, art, computing and cooking. To support our students' social and behavioural development, we designed and introduced a new personal and social development programme this year. Students have benefitted greatly from this and circle time, allowing them to reflect on their learning and experiences, and make meaningful personal goals. Our excursions have also added an exciting real-world element to our curriculum, including spending time with zoo critters, such as snakes and African millipedes, visiting museums, and a Bluewater excursion to learn about how businesses function. Overall, Primary Refocus students have engaged well this year with the curriculum, developing their growth mindsets, and enjoying their learning.

»» SECONDARY REFOCUS



In Secondary Refocus, we have enhanced our teaching in the three core subjects: English, mathematics and science. Particular successes have included in depth explorations of 'Of Mice and Men', with excellent analysis and evaluation of themes by

students, students acing their mathematics Ninja challenges, improving in their results week after week, and partaking in exciting endothermic and exothermic chemical reactions, helping students recognise and understand the importance of chemistry to our daily lives. Our students have also benefitted from a strong physical education programme, interesting Art projects, including an Islamic pattern exploration, and learning about current world issues through religious education. In order to help our students grow as responsible citizens, we have supported them with a new personal and social development programme, a reintegration programme, the TOPs programme, and careers and citizenship. To complement the academic curriculum, we have also been on various excursions, such as the science museum, bowling and driving range. Experiencing social and academic days out has been an important part of our students' journeys here with us in Secondary Refocus. Overall, our students have enjoyed their learning this year and we look forward to developing our curriculum further next academic year to include a broader humanities curriculum that will further expand our students' world views.

»» WELLING CENTRE



Students prefer Horizons than mainstream because:

PM - *Smaller groups able to concentrated much more. Teachers understand us, chances to get rewards, being taught better so I learn better.*

AM - *Teachers are funny, able to be independent gain better rewards and learn*

LH - *Teachers are better, small classes, better rewards and activities.*

SE - *Teachers are better and better facilities.*

FO - *Calmer*

JN - *It is calmer and has less people*

HS - *We get rewarded and go on trips and I feel a lot calmer here.*

(picture - AM researching a topic of interest and completing a powerpoint)

»» LONG TERM

We have had an eventful and successful academic year in Long Term. With Year 9, 10 and 11 students, it has certainly been busy, with exciting opportunities for cross-curricular work in subjects, increased dedicated improvement and reflection time, and curricula with enhanced assessment for learning opportunities. English and mathematics have been strong subjects this year for our long term students, with many already achieving Level 1 Functional Skills in Year 10, allowing greater focus on Level 2 Functional Skills and GCSEs in Year 11. In science, students have been improving their data analysis skills, mathematics in science skills, and have enjoyed learning about the world around them and their own physiology in our biology GCSE course. In religious education, our students have learned about relationships and family values in different religions and cultures, have explored the values of life, have delved into the conventions and beliefs of Islam and Christianity, and have investigated the criminal justice system. All students have been supported well in their social, emotional and behavioural development through thought-provoking PSHE and careers programmes, and tutor times with targeted reflection and discussion opportunities. We have also ensured that all students develop their home life skills further through our cooking programme. Options have included physical education, art and construction. Activities on a Friday have provided our students with necessary social time and rewards for hard work in their courses. Favourites have been movie analyses, football competitions, the driving range, having gym sessions, and Bluewater excursions. Our students have enjoyed their academic work this year, but have also been able to develop and expand their understanding of the world around them and each other, forming and maintaining healthy relationships.

»» NEIL HAZLEWOOD - KS4

I oversee the Key Stage 4 provision within Horizons Academy Bexley; this includes all our long term students based at our Abbey Wood site and Welling site. This term has seen a number of successes such as students passing their Functional Skills Maths and English exams, formation of our student voice representatives and positive engagement in work experience. I would like to congratulate our year 11's that engaged in their GCSE exams and we look forward to seeing them on results day August.



End of term trip for year nines and ten took place on Thursday 12th July to Thorpe Park; all students conducted themselves very well and had a really good day.

This term we have elected new student voice representatives for KS4 at Horizon's; they will play a key role in moving the school forward while working alongside the senior leadership team.

Students have been engaging well in lessons and preparing to start their GCSE's in KS4, the year nines are in the process of picking their option block GCSE's while having taster classes.

» PRIMARY

Term 5 ended with the excitement of the Royal Wedding and to celebrate Primary pupils and staff decorated the play area with flags and bunting and hosted a traditional Afternoon Tea for parents complete with Cream Cheese and Cucumber Sandwiches and Scones with strawberries and cream as well as other tasty bites.



This Term pupils have been working very hard and we have seen progress being made in all areas. Both classes have enjoyed off site trips as part of their topic work. Coram pupils went on a bug hunt as part of their mini beast topic whilst Barnardo went to the British Museum as part of their Egyptians topic.

We had an afternoon of competitive fun at our annual sports day and will be ending the Term with a visit from Zoo Lab and a trip to Joss Bay.

We are going to be saying goodbye to 3 of our pupils who will be returning to their mainstream schools in September and 1 pupil who will moving on to Secondary School. We are also saying goodbye to Miss Lewington who has taken up a position at Aspire Academy, another school in our Federation so it will not be a final goodbye, and we wish them all every success.

From the staff in Primary we would like to thank parents for your support and we hope you all have a lovely summer.

» WELLING BBQ



» MQONDISI BHEBHE

What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? *Humanities teacher and Head of English department and I have worked here since the beginning of September 2015.*

What does your job involve? *My job is to directly influence the quality of learning and teaching throughout the school. My position is one that requires leadership in relation to curriculum initiatives, the learning and teaching process and co-ordination of a range of classes in the overseeing of Primary –Secondary English curriculum.*

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why? *There is a cliché which says, 'School days are the best days'. Oh boy...this sums up my school life. I had a great time! I tried everything, started smoking at the age of 15 and experimented with alcohol which led to serious consequences. I still remember that day vividly. I was in year 9, a group of friends and my-self skipped school to go and drink alcohol. To be fair we could have got away with it had it not been for a stupid friend of ours who couldn't handle his drink and started showing off and even offered some of our booze to his Christian girlfriend. The following morning, we got summoned to the head-teacher's office and he marinated and massaged our bottoms with a bamboo stick. After that we had to work in pairs digging a two metre by two metre hole to plant a fruit (Mango) tree. I am still disappointed that I have not had the opportunity to taste those mangos.*

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? *When I was a kid I wanted to be like my dad simply because he was my dad, worked as a buyer, sounded right all the time and knew so much. But I started watching telly, hanging out with friends and my ambition changed. After that everything was motivated by money and material things. I tried playing football (representing my county in national schools tournament), athletics and even trying my luck in acting. I guess we all know what happened!*

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons? *I enjoy the sincere appreciation I receive from not only my boss, but also the people I work with. A heartfelt "thanks" goes a long way to improving my attitude and productivity. In terms of the nuts and bolts of my job, it involves planning and teaching and behaviour management. I've always enjoyed dealing with students and am always discovering new methods of working with young people, which only serve to remind me how lucky I am to be doing something I really love. Horizons Academy also pays for outside training, without many stipulations. So, I can enhance my skills as I see fit and have time. Little things also go a long way, such as end of term quizzes and barbecues and recognising actual achievements. I'm good at my job and feel positive about my contribution to the organisation at the highest level.*

Tell us about you as a person – something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect... *My first job in a PRU, kids used to bully me and I remember hiding in the staff-room when I was time-tabled to teach a year nine class. I came close to throwing in the towel, but failure was not really an option and isn't it ironic that my next job after that was working in a Young Offenders institution.*

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? *Don't rush to grow up. One day, you're going to be married, have kids, or comment on how your cat or dog is so lucky that they don't have any responsibility. Just enjoy this time you have to be young, and hopefully care-free.*



» KEYSTAGE 3

It has been rewarding and enjoyable in KS3 Refocus this year, with many of our students making excellent progress in both their learning and personal development. Staff have worked hard to ensure that all students have been supported in a bespoke manner based on their learning, social and behavioural needs.

We have developed a programme that helps our students reintegrate back into their home schools or start new placements with greater ease. English, mathematics and science lessons focus on foundation concepts within these subjects, so that students are more confident when entering mainstream again. Extra support within lessons is also given to our students with progress coaches addressing their specific learning needs, and additional help is given with literacy through Spelling, punctuation and grammar lessons, use of with Toe by Toe and 1:1 interventions. Maths Ninja has encouraged our students to compete with each other in a healthy way and improve in their understanding of arithmetic at the same time, and increased practical work balanced with interesting and relevant theory in science has helped prepare our students well for their return to mainstream. They are, therefore, well prepared in their core subjects.

However, it is not just academically that our students have been making progress, but also in terms of their personal, social and behavioural development. We have seen superb engagement in the weekly reintegration sessions run by our reintegration team, as well as keen interest and meaningful reflection during personal and social development sessions. These, as well as the TOPS programme, have encouraged our students to reflect on their behaviour and relationship choices, leading to more positive decisions and improved self-esteem. In addition, students have participated well in reflecting on their daily choices through credit sheet and individual target reviews in tutor time, as well as the overarching weekly reviews.

To celebrate their successes, our students have enjoyed various activities both onsite and offsite including, cooking cakes, biscuits and pizzas, foot golf, tenpin bowling and the driving range. Experiencing these rewards has helped our students understand the importance of making good and appropriate decisions in terms of behaviour.

In addition to celebrating their academic, social and behavioural successes, we have also praised those who have had good attendance, with weekly certificates for those with 100% attendance! Attendance to school and punctuality are so crucial to our students being able to access their education and to be able to improve in their behaviour choices. We thank parents and carers for their continued support in helping our students attend school on time.

Praise is so important to improving our students' self-confidence and giving them the incentive to make better choices. Each week we have had an assembly in order to congratulate students for their achievements during the week. Certificates are given for 100% attendance, most improved behaviour, subject stars of the week, and gift vouchers are given to the student with the highest credit score and citizen of the week.

We greatly value our students' needs and ideas, and so we have increased student voice opportunities this year, including using student voice as part of the interview process for new staff. This has given our students a sense of

responsibility and has made them feel more valued.

We are proud of how our students have achieved great strides for themselves and look forward to the new academic year in which we will continue to support each and every one of our students to do their best.

» PROFILE - ERIKA CADDOCK



What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? *Teaching Assistant I have been in this role for just over a year, prior to this role I worked within the school for an external company running the kitchen*

What does your job involve? *To support the students to access the curriculum in each of their subjects. To support the students with their needs both inside and outside the classroom.*

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why? *I was ok at school enjoyed the social side more than the learning*

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? *I really wanted to be a hairdresser*

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons? *Making a difference to the students lives, and never giving up on them.*

Tell us about you as a person – something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect... *When I was young I had a disease called 'Henoch-Schonlein purpura (HSP)'*

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? *I would tell my younger self to listen and work hard at school as at the age of 35 years old I am having to re take exams that I could have done better in, had I of listened.*

» AND FINALLY



"I TURNED IN MY HOMEWORK TWO DAYS LATE, BUT NORMALLY IT'S FOUR DAYS LATE, SO TECHNICALLY IT'S EARLY!"