

NEWSLETTER

NEW HORIZONS
DECEMBER 2018

HORIZONS
ACADEMY
BEXLEY



»» FROM THE EXECUTIVE HEAD TEACHER



Firstly I want to congratulate Mr Farrell on a successful start to his Head of School role at Horizons Academy Bexley. It is not easy taking on the leadership of such a complex and diverse organisation but he has certainly risen to the challenge and seems to be enjoying working with the team and getting to know all of the pupils.

The year has started with a rapid increase in pupil numbers due to a rise in permanent exclusions as well as some of our local schools working collaboratively with us to identify pupils who would benefit from the smaller class sizes, more personalised curriculum and specialised

staff which Horizons is able to offer. The Welling Centre is nearly full and Key Stage 4 at the main site is also growing in number. For many of our

pupils in Years 10 and 11 this means that they are starting the year in a stable placement and can focus on getting the most out of their education in order that they move on positively at the end of their GCSE year.

I would also like to highlight the fantastic work of the staff in both the teaching and outreach teams who have supported our younger pupils back to school. The responsive approach of Outreach staff to mainstream school colleagues and careful balancing of support for the school alongside advocacy for our pupils has overcome barriers to successful reintegration in several cases. In school efforts by the teaching and support staff teams have really enabled pupils who have lost confidence through permanent exclusion to grow and develop their own strategies to manage conflict and engagement in school. This joint approach, bringing together preventative work with the Refocus Programme and support on return has allowed many pupils who would have been denied the opportunity in the past to get back to school and be successful and, at the root of it all, are our pupils who time and time again prove others wrong and show they can return to school with improved attitude and behaviours.

Finally, thank you to the parents who have worked with us and seen how important joint messages and boundaries are in allowing our pupils to access the opportunities available to them and overcome their personal barriers. Without parental support, it is difficult to make progress towards what we are hoping to achieve which is equal opportunities for all of our children and young people.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year!

Jo Southby

»» 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)

»» STUDENTS WORK



» PRIMARY REFOCUS

This term primary numbers have increased, we are now back to two classes with two teachers and two support staff. We have been looking at intervention programmes recently; Emma is currently completing toe by toe literacy intervention with three of our students while Kayley is working with students doing speech and language. With an increase in students all at once (many from the same schools) this has made it a difficult settling in period for new students however staff are on top of the behaviour and are working hard to see positive changes in learning and behaviour for all students.



This term the students have completed some amazing work in literacy from our short rock, paper, and scissors story as well as working hard in all other areas. In science we have moved onto a space topic while in history we have changed topic from the Egyptians to the Romans. In geography we have moved on from Volcanoes and earthquakes to the Rainforest while in PSD we have been looking at creating things for Christmas as well as looking at future careers.

This term students have travelled to Aspire on three occasions to complete gang awareness training as well as mindfulness and respect training the students were both respectful and they worked well in these sessions. We also went to Sainsbury's to buy poppies and pay respect to those who fought in the war for us again the students were a credit to the school.



The students are getting better at reflecting on their days during circle time and they are leading the sessions well when we have time.

We have been on several reward trips since September such as Lesnes Park, Tiger Cubz and Bowling. Some students also got the opportunity to attend a trip to Kidzania which was hugely beneficial. The students chose what jobs they wanted to participate in, they based their decisions on how much each job paid and if they thought they would like to do that job when they grew up. Some of the jobs that the students participated in were: window cleaning, Air Conditioning Servicing, Courier, Hotel Cleaning, Shop Assistant and a Police Officer.



The primary department have worked hard at improving our attendance this term and we are currently sitting at a 99.8% average since September.

As we near Christmas the primary area have lots of nice things coming up such as ice skating, a Christmas pantomime, a cinema trip and a Christmas party. We hope all other areas around our schools have a very Merry

Christmas, a Happy New Year and a well-earned break.

» CHRISSIE DARE

Chrissie has worked within the Inclusion Team since 2016, initially as a Pastoral Support Coordinator. In 2017 She moved into the position of Careers and Transition Officer to where her passion and expertise lie. Chrissie currently holds a NVQ Level 4 Certificate in Careers Advice and Guidance.



Since moving into her current position Chrissie has been based at Endeavour Academy, supporting the delivery of careers within the curriculum. She provides young people across all key stages with independent information, advice and guidance in order to raise students aspirations and to ensure all year 11 leavers have a confirmed destination within further education / training prior to leaving. 100% of students at the end of year 2017 - 2018 left with a secure destination.

Chrissie is also the lead for Work Experience over both Endeavour and Horizons Academy. She has been embedding a new process to secure work experience placements with local employers.

Chrissie is a Staff Governor for LSEAT Bexley and attends regular meetings with the Governing Board. She has many years of experience as a Governor and understands the importance of her Governor role, which allows her to challenge and support decisions when necessary with the view of ensuring the best outcomes for all within the Academies.

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» MUSIC WORKSHOP - THE LINK



Students (Alfie, Chidera, Marvin) all took part in a music and radio workshop. Alfie wrote lyrics and enjoyed recording his original song. Chidera and Marvin worked really well together to come up with questions to interview staff and were highly motivated and engaged in the radio presentation experience.



» MEDICAL NEEDS

It's been a busy but positive term in our Medical Needs Provision with lots of successes. In addition, attendance has improved, particularly in the last couple of weeks. A big well done needs to go to Bethan who has improved her attendance and engagement with us recently and as a result should be starting with us in January.

To celebrate the successes of the term, the class are looking forward to going on a rewards trip to Bluewater for ice-skating and Nando's to get in the festive spirit!

As it comes to being half way through the year, students have been busy preparing for key skills needed for exams and college applications. A big well done also needs to go out to Freya who has started auditioning for performing arts colleges and has already been offered a place in one of them.

» STAFF PROFILE - ALEXIS WILSON

What is your role in Horizons Academy and how long have you worked here? I am a Pastoral Support Coordinator here at Horizons and have been in post since June this year.

What does your job involve? My role focuses on the attendance and safeguarding of students in KS3 and KS4 as well as those with medical needs here at Horizons. It involves working with students and their families, liaising with external agencies, responding to disclosures and making home visits.

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and if so why? I really enjoyed school and often wish I could go back! So yes my attendance was good! I was also well prepared for school in full uniform and knew what lessons I had. I did however, get into trouble usually for disruption.

When you were at school, what was your main ambition? I always enjoyed sport and wanted to be a footballer or an athlete and couldn't see myself doing anything else, especially working in education!

What do you enjoy most about your job at horizons? I am still getting used to my role here but like the fact that no two days are ever the same.

Tell us about you as a person- something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect I was at the Olympic Park in 2012 to see Mo Farah, Jessica Ennis and Greg Rutherford crowned GOLD.

If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be? Don't drink, don't smoke, don't mix with the wrong crowd, go to university and invest in google, bitcoin etc.



» OUTREACH & REINTEGRATION

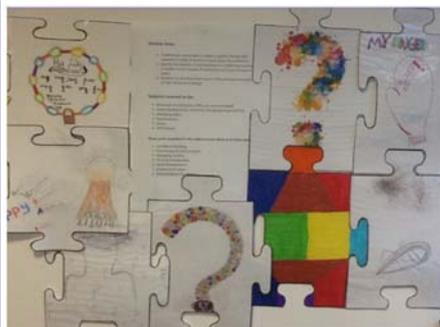
The Outreach Service in partnership with the St Giles SOS Trust has created a new Targeted Outreach Programme suitable for primary students. The session aimed to explore the issue of gang involvement and its effect on our young people in relation to social interaction, environment and criminal activities.



The first workshop took place this term at Aspire Academy with 24 children participating. Focusing upon the realities of an increasing gang culture nationally the St Giles Trust used its vast experience to present information that allowed the students to gain an understanding of what makes a good citizen. Time was given to the students to discuss respect, responsibility and honesty in everyday life. Whilst looking at the realities of gang life, peer pressure, grooming and ways of staying safe,

the students unanimously agreed that peer pressure was the number 1 reason why so many young people are being initiated into gang culture. This information and feedback will be used to plan subsequent sessions to ensure the message of staying safe continues throughout the rest of their primary education.

The Reintegration Success Programme is delivered by the Outreach Service and is designed to address the individual reasons leading to exclusion by targeting the underlying difficulties contributing to common behaviours exhibited by children and young people. In order for young people to manage their emotions and responses, key



skills must be developed that will enable them to assimilate successfully back to their home school or successfully transfer to a new school. Managing feelings and responses to situations, dealing with conflict, positive social interaction and accepting the direction of adults requires a level of emotional intelligence often lacking in students excluded from school. Our aim is to support our children and young people to build these skills using interactive group sessions as part of the primary and secondary Refocus Programme delivered at Horizons Academy.



» SECONDARY REFOCUS

It has been both a rewarding and an enjoyable experience to be part of the secondary refocus team this academic year. The smaller team have worked incredibly hard to ensure that all students have been extremely well supported with their learning, social and behavioural needs. Craig Gildea, supported by other members of the outreach team, has led the delivery of the reintegration programme at key stage 3. It has been specifically designed to support students reintegrate back into their home schools or start new placements. Students have embraced this and engaged well in every session. The Personal & Social Development (PSD) curriculum has been redesigned to complement the reintegration programme. Together, they have encouraged students to self-reflect and better understand their own behaviours. Students have been encouraged to make positive decisions when dealing with challenging topics including mental health and healthy relationships. Students are also embracing restorative language as means to resolve conflict and repair relationships with others.

In English this term, Mrs Jolley has taught the students to build tension through their writing. This has resulted in some very thoughtful work to commemorate Remembrance Sunday. Mr Hill has also used a bit of creative thinking in order to engage the students in reading time and has played taboo with key words from across the key stage 3 curriculum. He has also created a rewards system for students who read in lessons across all subjects. In maths they've produced tally charts, pie charts and histograms as well as algebra. In ICT, students have been learning to present information to a suitable audience. They have used Microsoft Office to create a Christmas themed menu for the Christmas dinner next week. The winner's menu will be used as the placemats. In Careers, they played "A life game", which involved them choosing a career, and learning to save money in a bank account. They also had to buy a home, a car and go on holiday; all within their budget. There has been some great cross-curricular work done this term. In science, Miss Booth has taught the students about adaptation, inheritance; evolution and extinction. This has been complemented by the newly introduced World Studies. Students have been learning about the world's rainforests and have created a lovely display around conservation of endangered species. In Art, students have also embraced the Rainforest theme in order to design and create a leaf template that will be used to build their own rainforest using mono-printing with Mrs Sole.

Students have had fortnightly student voice meetings led by Mrs Jolley and Miss Al-Shiraz. The key impact of student voice has been that students feel that they can have a say in their daily school life. They are currently costing a garden design that future students can take pride in. They have also been given break time fruit and biscuits; they feel that it has positively impacted their behaviour.

Students are also very aware that their behaviours impact on the benefits they receive and have engaged well with the credit system. They have been motivated by the rewards activities including cooking, bowling, foot golf and the driving range. The students are currently earning credits towards the end of term ice skating trip. They have also designed the menu for the student Christmas dinner in the last week of term. They will be preparing and eating a traditional Christmas dinner. We just need to figure out who will be doing the washing up!

» RAVENSBOURNE



» STAFF PROFILE - NINA REHAN

What is your role in Horizons and Endeavour Academies and how long have you worked here?

I am the Careers & Transition Officer within the Inclusion Team and I recently joined the organisation in June 2018.

What does your job involve?

I meet with current and post-statutory students in regards to their career choices. I hold regular one-to-one sessions with year 10 and 11 students, attend career lessons and ensure all students have a secure destination within further education, training or employment before leaving at the end of year 11.

What were you like at school? Did you ever get into trouble and, if so, why?

The only reason I ever got in trouble at school was for talking too much. I enjoyed learning and socialising with friends and school.

When you were at school, what was your main ambition?

To become a Dentist.

What do you enjoy most about your job at Horizons?

I enjoy being able to advise and guide students to make a difference in their lives. I enjoy getting to know students' personalities and traits, which enables me to work professionally and effectively alongside them. I also enjoy working with my colleagues who are always there to help me.

Tell us about you as a person - something unexpected that people at work would not know or suspect...

I am a qualified Lash Aesthetician

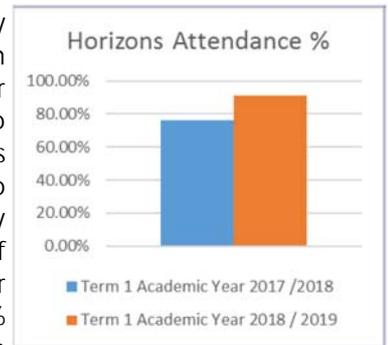
If you could give your younger self advice, what would it be?

To live in the here and now.

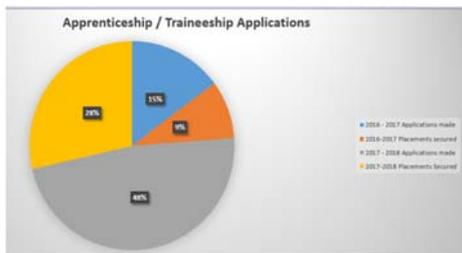


➤ PASTORAL SUPPORT & CAREERS

We have two Pastoral Support Coordinators (PSCO) at Horizons Academy Bexley including the Welling Centre; Emma Slater and Alexis Wilson. The PSCO's deal with attendance and safeguarding daily across KS3, KS4 and Medical Needs. Their duties include daily phone calls, home visits and immediately responding to safeguarding concern forms as they arise. Multi agency working with professionals such as; EWO's, Social Care and CAMHS is also a vital part of their role in addition to supporting staff and SLT ensuring the policies and processes are followed accurately in order to ensure students are attending school and are safeguarded. At the end of Term 1, this year, attendance currently stands at 91.2%, which is a 15% increase year on year (2017/2018). There has been a 30% increase of students with 85% attendance or above and 87% referrals following safeguarding concerns have been accepted which is a fabulous achievement and a reflection of the relentless approach attendance.



Improved attendance, punctuality and wellbeing supports students to achieve good outcomes, which in turn enhances their further education or training opportunities. The PSCO's work closely with the Careers and Transition team to raise student's aspirations and ensure they have a secure destination in place before they leave at the end of the academic year. In the Academic year 2017/2018, 100% of Yr 11 students left the Academy with a secure destination. To date, 84% of those students have enrolled and remained within their chosen provision. There has been a push from the government to promote Apprenticeships and Traineeships which we have delivered within the one to one sessions and visits to careers events. Academic year 2017/2018 there was an 11% increase in applications to Apprenticeships and Traineeships which we plan to build upon this year.



The allocated Careers and Transition Officer Nina Rehan has been working with students across all key stages delivering one to one careers advice and guidance sessions, attending career lessons, supporting students to explore the opportunities available to them and organising students to attend events to support employer contact. As well as supporting our students this ensure we adhere to the Government expectation of meeting all 8 Gatsby Benchmarks by 2020. The Year 11 students from both Horizons Academy and Welling attended the Skills London Event in November which enabled them to speak with providers and employers face to face with our students representing the school and themselves positively. Over 50% of Year 11 students have already submitted at least one application and we also have the Job Centre coming into school in January to deliver workshops around CV's as well as members of CITB Construction attending the construction classes in February to discuss requirements and employment routes into the industry.

➤ KEYSTAGE 4

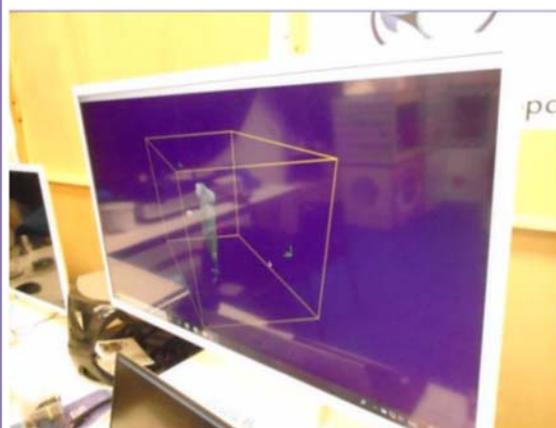
As the end of term approaches let us all give each other a big 'well done' for getting through to the end.

Successes; Year 10's Functional Skill Maths and English have been undertaken with success at level 1 and at level 2.

Year 11's music trip to the University of Ravensbourne visiting the Excel and the O2 and the guest speaker at the Link gave insight into 'next step' and future aspirations of our budding musicians; Jaide, Marvin, Chidera, and Alfie – look out for their Christmas single.

Well done to CJ who completed the 2 days of Orienteering with Mr Hoare and the Outreach Team! – Well done CJ.

The countdown to Christmas has begun with a Christmas



eve event, consisting of a craft fayre (making decorations etc.) Food preparation where the students are preparing starters, the main Christmas dinner and mince pies, gingerbread men and cookies, ending with a family style Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 19th December.

Congratulations end of term trip to 'Winter Wonderland' at Hyde Park takes place on Thursday 20th December, for all students that have achieved attendance, credits and merits of 85% or more.

Next term, year 11s will be undertaking Mock Exams in core subjects, under exam style conditions.

We would like to welcome the following students to KS4 this term:

Ebonie, Molly, Maisie, Josh, Courtnie.

» CIVIC CELEBRATION



On Tuesday 4th December 2018 three of our students Lee, Kai and Aaron were celebrated at the Civic Celebration of Student Achievement in Bexley Schools. This is an annual event for students who have achieved exceptional school outcomes. Well done to all those involved.



» OUTREACH SERVICE

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 2018, we have successfully supported 15 students back in to mainstream school. Whilst 1 student has returned to us as a long term student and 1 student has now transferred to a specialist provision, 87% 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 and Parent Comments:

- **EH – Uplands Primary School** 'I have enjoyed working on my targets and learning about other people's feelings'
- **SS – Bexley Grammar** 'My Outreach officer has helped me to focus on my own learning and how to ask for help when I was struggling. My tip would be focus, work hard and remember all of the positives that you have had'
- **SB – Willow Bank Primary School** 'My reintegration plan has helped me to listen to my teacher. Listen to your teachers, they are trying to help you.'
- **FJ- Jubilee School** 'Working with my Outreach Officer has helped me with my good choices and helped me to listen better'
- **TB – Willow Bank Primary School** 'I have had someone to talk to and to listen to me. My Outreach Officer has helped me when I get angry, how to deal with it and not to hurt anyone.'
- **KB – Peareswood School** 'My top tip to other students would be to make sure that you do not lash out, to be yourself and to talk to an adult who can help you.'
- **Parent of CA – Bexleyheath Academy** 'Just to say a big thank you for all your input in yesterday's meeting. It makes such a difference when my son and I feel comfortable with someone'

» FRANCESCA CHRISTMAS - GOVERNOR



I used to be a secondary school teacher in East London. I was a music teacher, and I spent quite a lot of my timetable teaching qualifications designed to provide a pathway to working in the creative industries – it was brilliant to be able to work alongside talented young people, helping them realise their dreams and ambitions. It's a real privilege to have been invited to be a Governor at New Horizons Federation, as it gives me the same opportunities again to see so many pupils work towards achieving their full potential across all three schools, every time I visit. I worked for a while in Teacher Education too, mentoring and tutoring

teachers at the beginning of their careers as they qualified to teach in schools, and I still really enjoy working alongside and supporting brilliant teachers – something that I think is a really important part of the Governor role. My job now is in Education Research and I spend my time thinking about and finding out about ways in which we can, as a society, ensure equitable provision in education for young people, so that that every single pupil has the opportunity to be the best they can be. That's what attracted me to New Horizons Federation – a group of teachers with high expectations for all young people and the belief that everyone can aim high and achieve their goals.

I'm looking forward to joining the Governing Body, and meeting many of the students across the New Horizons Schools.

» AND FINALLY

THE STAFF OF
HORIZONS ACADEMY BEXLEY
WISH ALL STUDENTS, PARENTS
and CARERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS and
A HAPPY NEW YEAR

