

## Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy start to 2016 at TreeHouse.

We started the term with a very productive Inset Day. The main focus for everyone in the school was the progress that our pupils are making across all areas of their learning and how we can ensure that every pupil is being supported to thrive and achieve. In our December newsletter we told you about what we are doing in relation to the Government's Prevent Strategy, which is aimed at preventing radicalisation and extremism, and our accompanying responsibility to promote the British Values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance. On Inset Day, time was allocated for all staff to complete online training in relation to Prevent.



Becky Jones

After school on Wednesday 13th January we held our second Parent Open Evening. This provided another excellent opportunity for our parents and staff to have some really rich discussions about our pupils (your children) and how we can work together to best meet their needs. A special thank you to parents who braved the winter weather to attend and to our staff for staying late to make the event possible.

We have been delighted to welcome three new pupils into the school and it has been a pleasure to see them settling into their classes and the school community. We have at least one more pupil scheduled to join us after Easter. Particularly exciting is the fact that some of our new pupils are in the primary age range. This is great news, as development of our primary school is a key focus this year and we are planning lots of work to develop the learning environment and provision in this part of the school. I should be able to share more information about this in our next newsletter.

In the autumn term we recruited a team of seven Lunch and Leisure Assistants to support pupils at the times of day when class staff need to take breaks. This term we have been running an intensive training programme to make sure that they have the skills and knowledge required to ensure that pupils experience a consistent approach throughout the day. Our new colleagues have proved a valuable addition to our staff team, ensuring that pupils are well supported while our class staff recharge their batteries.

Our well-established Lunch Club with pupils from a local primary school resumed in January. Each week a group of ten children from Muswell Hill Primary School visits to take part in activities with pupils from our Lower School. The pupils from both schools really enjoy themselves and lots of learning takes place for all involved. Last week the children learnt to work in teams to complete an obstacle course!

There has been lots happening in Sixth Form too. Well done to our students who are gaining valuable work experience at Shelter and at the Bread of Life Café and to those who attended an employment fair recently. Read all about it in the articles below.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and healthy half-term break. We look forward to welcoming your children back on Monday 22nd February.

With warm wishes,



Rebecca Jones, Headteacher

## TreeHouse learners visit the West London Alliance supported Internship Fair

On 28<sup>th</sup> January, Bilal, Reece, Simon and Welid in Sixth Form visited an Employment Fair in west London at Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College which has over 22,000 students across 4 campuses.

They had a 2 hour journey to Hammersmith College due to a traffic incident earlier that day. On arrival they visited a refreshments stall for drinks and a snack, then some information stalls. They gathered information on Supported Employment with Sofitel at Heathrow Airport from students who are paid interns. They spoke to people who run supported social events for over 18's and also to staff about apprenticeships and supported care providers. **Bilal even played some American Football at the sports stand!**

They had jacket potatoes for lunch in the college canteen, which was very busy. They then walked through the Fair to reception and said goodbye. It only took 30 minutes to drive back to school.



## School to College Link Programme

TreeHouse School pupils visit Ambitious College on Wednesdays as part of their College Link Programme and Preparation for Adulthood. Most recently Aaron, Eli, Hani and Mel carried out a Treasure Hunt around the College to familiarise themselves with all the wonderful facilities available, including the garden, the gym, the art room (meeting the artist in residence), several kitchens, and gaining access to the usually off limits Staff Room!



Each pupil was awarded a trophy on completion and the whole Treasure Hunt was over in record time!

## Community Café, Muswell Hill

On Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February two pupils carried out their work experience at St James Church, Community Café (Muswell Hill). David has been working there for over a year helping to prepare fresh soup for visitors to the café. Simon is a more recent volunteer and also



supports the hard work to get the fresh soup prepared in time for lunch, as well as cleaning the kitchen once the soup is ready to serve.

**Clare Caccavone**

## Parents Evening on 13th January 2016

Thank you to those 16 families who came to our second Parents' Open Evening. We hope you had a good opportunity to meet with your child's team. And thank you to all the staff who stayed and made the evening a success.

Below are some of the comments we have received:

'Excellent to have the opportunity to meet the staff'

'Once I arrived at the classroom, the welcome and information provided by staff was great as always'.

## School Meals at Treehouse School

We have some exciting news to share about our schools meals.

From April we will be using a different provider. We made sure to select the best out of several different tenders.

More information on details will be shared shortly.



## Parent Information and Support

Please feel free to book an appointment slot during our Parent Surgery, 1st March 2016, 12.00—15.00. Please call 020 8815 5145 or email [bblank@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:bblank@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk). We can use this time to point you towards sources of help and information around social care (local authority support), or paperwork, benefits or other issues. Where appropriate, we will invite your child's SENCO to ensure a joined-up multi-disciplinary team approach.

On 17th March, we will be hosting a Parent Talk at Treehouse School on Puberty and Sexuality. It will run from 10.00—13.00. The topic is subject to the confirmation of a speaker. Please feel free to email [kregan@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:kregan@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk), if you have any questions or would like to attend.

***Belinda Blank (Information and Family Support Manager)***



Islington Sports Academy presents

Free day of sport activities for young disabled people aged 5-25 and their families

# DISABILITY SPORTS FESTIVAL

WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
10.30am to 3.00pm

at Islington Arts Media School  
Turle Road, Islington, London N4 3LS

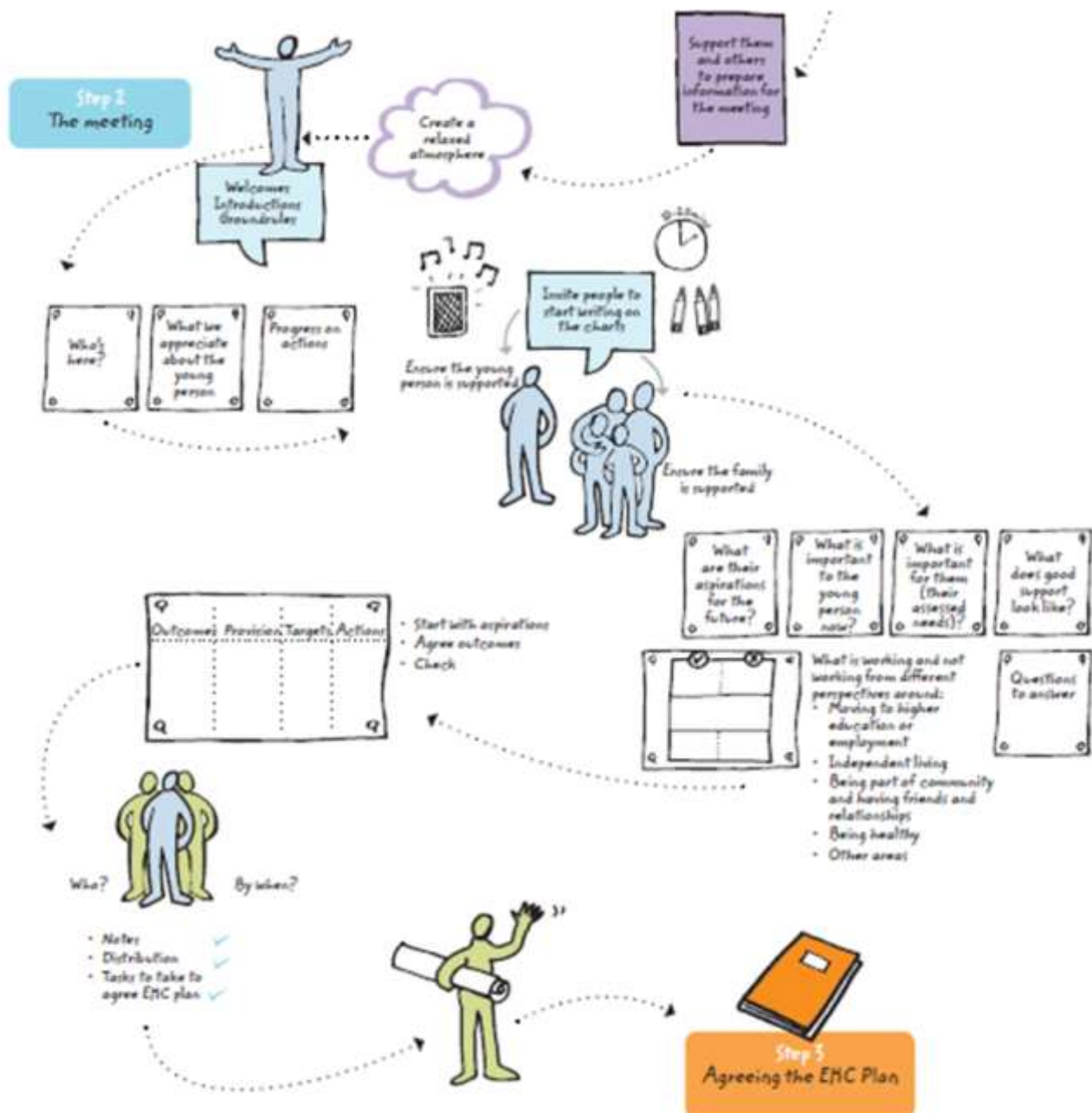
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**SPORTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES ON THE DAY:**  
Boccia, Table Tennis, Sitting Volleyball,  
New Age Kurling, Dance, Football & Indoor Athletics.

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To register contact:  
[hcdt@islington.gov.uk](mailto:hcdt@islington.gov.uk) or call 0207 527 7669  
Please advise us if your children have any additional needs





## The EHCP process at Treehouse School

As most of you will know by now, the Transfer from SEN Statement to the Education Health and Care Plans is now in its second year... and can sometimes still seem daunting now!

Our Deputy Head for Sixth Form would like to share the following link with you, which will hopefully make the process as a whole more understandable: <http://www.specialneedsjungle.com/flow-chart/>

At Treehouse School, we have developed a similar process in order to make it as simple and manageable as possible. You will have noticed that we scheduled in extra appointments if your child is due to transfer to an EHCP this year. These Planning Meetings have been scheduled to allow all of the information relating to your child to be collated and reviewed in preparation for the Transfer Meeting, and are scheduled at least one term before the Transfer. If time allows, we've scheduled in a second meeting to check if anyone else needs to be invited. A Trigger letter is then sent out by the LA 14 days before the Transfer Meeting. Following the meeting, they have eight weeks to send out a draft EHCP to the parents and school, allowing 15 days for a response on the content. If agreed, the final plan will be issued, naming the placement for your child. If objections are raised, the LA must revise the draft and re-issue.

The process in total should take no longer than 20 weeks. Independent Supporters are available to assist you at any stage during this process.

Please email the [SchoolOffice@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:SchoolOffice@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk) if you have any questions.

# Dates for your diary

22 February	Term starts. School open to pupils from 9am.
01 March 12.00—15.00	Parent Surgery with Belinda Blank
14—18 March	Year 12 +13 Avon Tyrrell Residential Trip
17 March 10.00—13.00	Parent Talk—Puberty & Sexuality TBC
25 March	Good Friday—School Closed
04 April	Inset Day—School Closed to Pupils
05 April	Term Starts. School open to pupils from 9am.

## Staff Updates and Developments:

### Welcome to...

Clare Caccavone—Development Manager for 6th Form  
Caroline Haines—Vocational Specialist Horticulture (p/t)  
Tara Jeewoonarain—Vocational Specialist Horticulture (p/t)  
Sian Kelly—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Natasha Coppini—Behaviour Analyst  
Sarah Dobson—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Rebecca Dyer—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Marion Gold—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Spiridoula Kourkoulou—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Patricia Sosa—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Ilaria Ceccarelli—ABA Tutor  
Florentina Morariu—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Shinola Edwards—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Smerelda Monforte—ABA Tutor  
Gina Skourti—Senior Behaviour Analyst (maternity cover)  
Kevan Wayne Morris—Quality Manager (Upper School)

### Congratulations to..

Leila Dias Felicio—Behaviour Consultant  
Ashleigh Farrugia—Senior ABA Tutor  
Lindelwe Sibanda—ABA Tutor  
Tsapra Efstathia—ABA Tutor  
Kieran O'Connor—ABA Supervisor  
Fallon Trivedi—ABA Tutor

### Goodbye to..

Hannah Smith—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Cheryl-Anne Cole—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Hannah Dodd—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Margaret Marques—ABA Tutor  
Roxanna Drayson—ABA Tutor  
Kirsten Hummerstone—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Maya Dunnell—Class Teacher  
Kylie Vickers—ABA Tutor



### Address

The Pears National Centre for Autism Education,  
Woodside Avenue, London N10 3JA

Telephone 020 8815 5424

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Email [Enquiries@TreeHouseSchool.org.uk](mailto:Enquiries@TreeHouseSchool.org.uk)

Website [www.TreeHouseSchool.org.uk](http://www.TreeHouseSchool.org.uk)