

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another action-packed half term at TreeHouse School. Highlights have included our annual, eagerly anticipated Sixth Form Educational Visit to Avon Tyrrell in Devon. This year our pupils attended from 14th-18th March and had a fantastic time. We believe that our programme of 'residential' are a key part of our pupils' curriculum, providing a wealth of opportunities to learn, to experience activities outside their usual experience and enjoy fresh air and countryside. Thank you to everybody whose support made the visit possible and to all those who kept things running smoothly here in cloudy North London (Avon Tyrrell enjoyed the sunshine all week that we only saw in London on the Thursday—lucky things!). For more details see page 2. Lots more fun-filled learning took place on 24th February when our pupils enjoyed an interactive session with a group of visiting musicians and on 4th March we celebrated World Book Day in spectacular fashion (see page 3). Thanks also to staff and parents who supported these exciting events.



Becky Jones

As I mentioned in my February letter, particularly exciting things are starting to happen in our primary school, not least the admission of new pupils. This means that after Easter we will be expanding the Primary School by opening a third class. We have been busy recruiting staff, ordering new furniture and equipment and generally smartening things up in anticipation of their arrival.

Developments for our older pupils include the appointment of Clare Caccavone who has joined as Sixth Form Development Manager and Vicky Morgan to lead on developing our work experience provision. These are both interim roles focussed on enriching our 6th Form offer for pupils whilst we continue to develop our study programmes based on the four Preparing for Adulthood Pathways.

As part of our focus on the quality of teaching and learning, we have been running professional development sessions for our staff who are responsible for planning and leading lessons and more in this area is planned for next term. We have also had a particular focus on the classroom environments and how displays can be used to support and celebrate learning.

Important news about our school lunch providers

From 5th April pupil lunches will come from a new provider. This will entail a small increase in cost. We understand that any price increase can be difficult so we have negotiated as hard as we can to limit the rise. Be assured, though, that this is more than matched by the improved quality and value for money, in terms of both taste and nutrition, that your children will enjoy.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families a very happy and healthy Easter break. We look forward to welcoming your children back on Tuesday 5th April.

With warm wishes,



Rebecca Jones, Headteacher

Avon Tyrrell: S4 opinions about the Avon Tyrrell trip. All the students choose the pictures.

Bilal said that his favourite activity was “bush craft, because he got to make a hot chocolate”. He also said that he “collected the twigs and I put it on the fire”.



Cecilia said that her “favourite memory of Avon Tyrrell was making bubbles at the circus workshop because it was fun”.

<— This is Cecilia with Barbara making Bubbles at the circus workshop.



Simon said that the funniest thing that happened was “I painted face painting”.

This is Simon at London Waterloo eating his snack on the way to Avon Tyrrell. —>



Reece said that he was proud he went on the zip wire.



<— This is a photo of Sam using a flint and steel to light a small fire.



Performing Arts News

On 24th February, the singer songwriter Scarlett Fever and her team of musicians came to TreeHouse to perform for our Lower School pupils. She started the gig by singing some original songs with her guitar and then got the audience involved with an interactive rendition of 'Itsy Bitsy Spider' where the learners acted out different sounds and actions to accompany the song. Some of our pupils were invited onto the stage to use the equipment and perform for their peers. It was a brilliant afternoon with lots of singing and music-making.

Kirsty Allnutt – Performing Arts Vocational Specialist

World Book Day 4th March

TreeHouse School celebrated World Book Day this year with style – staff and pupils dressed up as their favourite character from a book and each class organised a storytelling activity so everyone could be involved. Activities included choosing books from the school library and acting out the story, pupils drawing their favourite book cover and Wally (from 'Where's Wally?') teaching the trombone. We even had The White Rabbit playing badminton. Congratulations to Snow White who won the pupil Best Costume Award!



Newspaper Article by Charlie Carolan:

“I won the trophy!”

I won a trophy for best costume and I've got a certificate because I did fundraising for the Arts Depot in Finchley.



I fundraised money from teachers' donations, by asking them if they were free to talk and explaining why I needed their donation. Ali, my tutor, did the face paint and I dressed up as the Inquisitor from Star Wars.

I raised £105 for my Drama Club. Thank you everyone for donating the money.



The performance is on July 11th, 7pm at the Arts Depot in Finchley.

Please come along, everyone is welcome!

Employ Autism Campaign using Thunderclap

Ambitious About Autism is launching its Employ Autism: From School to Work Campaign on Saturday 2nd April. We are striving to improve employability outcomes for young people with autism. To really have an impact, we have signed up to Thunderclap, a really easy way to get our message out on the same day and time to reach as many people as possible.

You can sign up with one (or all) of your social media accounts when you sign up to the link below:

<https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/38902-are-you-with-us-employautism?locale=en> to send out the following tweet/ message without having to remember to do anything on the day:

“Young people with autism want to work. This #WAAD2016 let's work together& give them a fighting chance #EmployAutism <http://thndr.me/5TLUj>”

For more information, please contact our fundraising team via Charlotte Lore on clore@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk

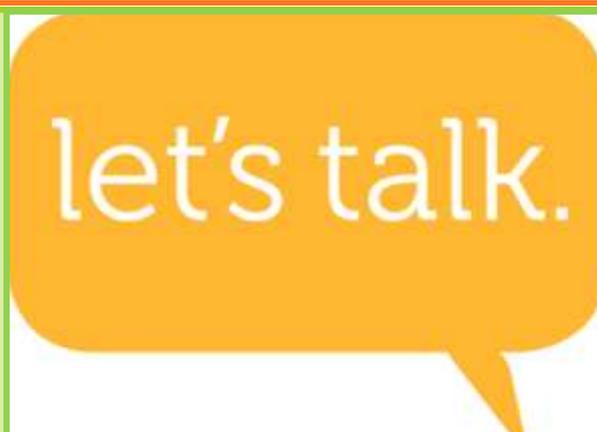
Parent Information and Support: Counselling for Families

The Information and Family Support Service continues to provide **counselling and therapy via individual and family sessions** to any parents or family members of pupils of TreeHouse School.

The service is **free of charge**, confidential and held in TreeHouse School and in a local wellness centre in Crouch End. It is called Project:me (www.project-me.co.uk). It is funded until the end of July 2016, there are a limited number of slots available and sessions work on a first come first served basis.

For more information please contact:
Francisco Urbistondo, Counselling Psychologist
(Reg HCPC, MBACP Accred/Reg):

furbistondo@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk



Pupil Voice has lift off!

Staff have had an Information Session about the importance of Pupil Voice. We have had our pupils meet with prospective Head Teacher candidates, who were asked to provide feedback on what they learned and liked at TreeHouse School. One of our pupils Claudia Emmett has been very keen to engage in a School Council and has designed the first pupil survey about pupils' opinions on Health and Safety at TreeHouse School. The results will be published soon!!

Tom Bailey
Manager of Allied Health
Specialist Speech and Language Therapist



New Work Experience Opportunities

We are making some exciting new links with employers to enable our Sixth Form pupils to access a range of work experience opportunities. Work Experience is an essential part of developing skills that can be transferred from school into a range of settings and is linked to our work with pupils on Preparing for Adulthood. We believe that all our pupils are able to access work experience and we work with employers to assess which suitable placements can be created and with pupils to link these to their interests and aspirations.

We have recently developed an exciting new partnership with Sainsburys. Chris Young, Muswell Hill Store Manager, told us 'We are so delighted to be working with TreeHouse School and look forward to welcoming some of the pupils to complete work experience in our store. This is not just a fantastic opportunity for the pupils, but also for the colleagues and managers within the store. Having seen the amazing work that the school does for its pupils first hand, it's wonderful to provide further learning and development opportunities for the pupils in a store environment such as Sainsburys. We are really excited about the prospect of helping such a great project within our local community'.

Dates for your diary

24 March	Inset Day for 6th Form pupils only
25 March	Good Friday—School closed
28 March—01 April	Easter Break—School closed
04 April	Inset Day—School closed to pupils
05 April	Term starts. School open to pupils from 9am.
27 April	Wendy Bellis—Dentist in School
11—13 May	Yr 9 + 10 Scout Park Residential Trip
26—27 May	Yr 7 & 8 Scout Park Residential Trip
30 May	Bank Holiday—School Closed
31 May—03 June	May Half—Term
06 June	School Open to Pupils from 9am

Staff Updates and Developments:

A new EA to the Head Teacher has been appointed. Please ask for Clayre Bennett or contact her on 020 8815 5446 to request meetings with or if you need to speak to the Head Teacher.

The School Office will no longer be the point of contact for these matters, but is still available re: pupil appointments and general information or requests.

Welcome to...

Ilaria Ceccarelli—ABA Tutor
Daniel Alm—ABA Supervisor
Nevin Kuran—Trainee ABA Tutor
Smerelda Montforte—ABA Tutor
Bhavini Rajdev—ABA Tutor
Victoria Phull—Senior ABA Tutor
Clayre Bennett—EA to the Head Teacher
Vicky Morgan—Work Experience Lead (interim post)

Congratulations to..

Lee Dorrill—on the birth of son Edward
Jess Aviles—on the birth of daughter Tesla

Goodbye to..

Daisy Pumphrey—Behaviour Consultant
Kirsty Allnutt—Vocational Specialist Performing Arts
Geza Kiss—Assistant Head Upper School

Stacey Welfare—Sports Coach
Laura Peltomaki—Senior ABA Tutor
Andrew Mante—ABA Tutor
Jess Aviles—Senior ABA Tutor (maternity leave)



**TreeHouse
School**

At the heart of



**Ambitious
about Autism**

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