



## Dear Parents and Carers

This letter is packed full of news of events and developments at TreeHouse School that we are really proud of. You can see photographs of the beautiful transformation of our Primary area and meet our two newest pupils. You will read a fantastic account of the Year 9 & 10 residential trip to Scout Park written by Keegan, and see examples of how our pupils are using interactive technology to support their learning and participation in the community.



Becky Jones

You will certainly be impressed by the incredible fundraising efforts of Farhat and Gabbie, who raised an amazing £389 to buy for Squease vests. I had the pleasure of drawing the raffle tickets at the end of the day, with certificates being handed out by one of our Deputy Heads, Kevan Wayne-Morris. The raffle prize winners were: Kieran O'Connor, Gina Skourti, Eleanor Soames and Sophie Attan. Thank you to Farhat and Gabbie for being so creative, kind and professional, we are all very proud of you both. Thanks also to their families for coming along, the boys' teachers and tutors, the fundraising department (especially Julia and Jennie), staff who made cakes and bought cakes, pupils who patiently waited in the long queues to buy cakes, Mohammed in the shop and all the raffle prize donators (Bill's, Giraffe and Goldilocks hair salon). More about this exciting event can be read on page 3.

We have held several events this half term for parents and families. Thank you so much to parents and carers who joined us for Arts Afternoon—we loved getting creative together as a whole school community. Look out for the large and colourful pieces of art that we made together displayed around school. We also held our first ever Transition Event that brought together our pupils, their families and 15 different service providers to inspire us with ideas and information about some of the opportunities that may be available to pupils after they leave school. So many of the visiting providers commented on how useful they found it to visit our school and meet our pupils—they were really impressed with us and we were really proud to host them. Pupils did a superb job of welcoming and registering guests, providing and serving refreshments and also speaking with the providers.

In fact, we are so proud of our school that we have decided to have a focus on 'Being Proud' as part of an active citizenship project next half term. In fact, we have already starting this project with our 'Pride Patrol' volunteers who are demonstrating pride in their school by helping to keep it free of litter. As active citizens we are also focussing on 'Being Kind' - exploring different ways that we can recognise and show kindness to others—whether it's offering a helping hand, opening a door, giving a compliment or thinking carefully about how our actions might make people feel. Our third focus is on 'Being Resilient'. We know it's quite a big word and it means different things for different people—however we are all learning how to keep ourselves and others safe, how to ask for help, how to make plans for the future, how to understand and manage our emotions and how to manage change. We would love to hear examples of how your son or daughter takes pride, is kind or shows resilience at home—do share your stories with us—we love to celebrate together.

There is lots to look forward to next half term too. We will be having a focus week on using 'Multi-Me', a safeguarded social media platform for recording and sharing progress and stories and pictures about things pupils have enjoyed. If you would like your son or daughter to have a Multi-Me account, do remember to return your permission slip. Using Multi-Me provides a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn important e-safety rules that will help them make safe choices in the future, should they choose to use social media to communicate with others. We hope to see as many of you as possible at one of our upcoming Sports Days or Graduation events.

With every good wish for the half term. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 6th June.

With warm wishes,

Rebecca Jones, Headteacher

# Scout Park

Year 9 and 10 visit Scout Park, 11—13 May 2016

'My favourite thing about Scout Park was when we went to Pizza Express and I ate the American pizza which had cheese, tomato and pepperoni on it and it tasted delicious. I went with Aga, Steven and Katie.

In the evening I watched big hero 6 which was entertaining, I watched it with Kush and Tim and after that I went to bed.

The next morning I went on the bouncy castle and it was fun. I went swimming in Finchley I swam in the water from one side to the other. I got the 263 bus to east Finchley then the 102 back to Scout Park and I was tired, after having a good time swimming and bouncing and spending time with my friends.'

Keegan Dawson, LS4



## TreeHouse Primary School & Early Years

Thanks to the creative hands and generosity of many staff volunteers, the Primary area of TreeHouse has undergone a transformation into a bright cheery scene from a fairy-tale. Pupils can hunt for the woodland creatures hiding under two new trees, or take time to relax under the blue sky and fluffy clouds.

With our school wide focus on “Being Kind, Being Proud and Being Resilient”, Primary pupils will also be using the space to display their work and news of achievements they are proud, creating materials for this in their Citizenship, Art and Design and Technology classes. There are more additions to come including a rainbow sky, picnic basket storage and a flower box painted with pupils’ finger prints as the petals.

A giant thank you to all of the people who helped refresh the space to make it the best it can be for our young learners.

**Allison Knight, Assistant Head, Lower School**



## Parent Information and Support

On Wednesday 29 June, we will be hosting a seminar on Transition to Adult Life. It will run from 10.00—14.00 at St Albans Centre in central London and will cover housing and supported living options, post-18 benefits, how to support vocational training, employment and leisure options in adult life and understanding wills and trusts. This seminar is free for TreeHouse parents so please do contact Kathy to book a place on 020 8815 5169 or email:

[kregan@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk](mailto:kregan@ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk).

**Kathy Regan**

**Information and Family Support Officer**

**Ambitious about Autism**

## Pupils exceed fundraising target in their bake sale for 'Squease Wear Vest'.

This term an exciting fundraiser, organised and led by two of our lower school pupils, happened in TreeHouse School. The Occupational Therapists organised for a trial of 'Squease Wear Vests' for pupils who enjoy deep pressure, in the form of squeezes or squashing. These vests have a self inflatable pump, which you can inflate to give a hug-like sensation. The vest can be inflated for up to 20 minutes, then you press the deflate button to release the 'hug'. It can help some people in times of anxiety or sensory overload, to provide a reassuring hug—and this vest is a great way of doing that appropriately in school. Two pupils in the Lower School, Farhat and Gabbie, got a chance to try out these vests and instantly realised that they really wanted one of their own. But where could they get the money? They decided to hold a fundraiser! Gabbie decided to bake cakes, and Farhat decided to make and sell paper aeroplanes. The boys also sold raffle tickets, which local businesses kindly provided prizes for.

Posters were made (each one handmade by the boys) and cakes were baked by pupils across the school, including pupils on the Catering and Hospitality vocational pathway. Gabbie and his family baked at home and there was great excitement when he brought in his delicious cookies! Farhat made a big box of specially designed paper aeroplanes, each one individually priced, depending on their flight ability.



On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Farhat and Gabbie took ownership of the school shop, and were so professional in dealing with the long queues of customers. At one point, when Farhat was so busy, he said "Teachers,



you need to help me, lets work as a team!". Gabbie was so happy in his role of shop keeper, and was even saying 'next customer please!'. The boys were busy taking orders, getting the cakes, writing names on raffle tickets, using the cash register, taking money and giving change, and all the time, were so professional and polite to the customers. There was a great excitement in the school, and everyone was so proud of Gabbie and Farhat who took on all of these new skills and challenges, and acted in a kind and professional manner to all their customers, pupils, school staff and charity staff.



The event ended, Gabbie closed down the shutters to the shop, and Farhat counted the money. There was great excitement in LS4 class when Farhat

added up the total money raised, and realised they had exceeded their target and raised £389! Farhat jumped around with joy shouting 'we did it! We can get our squease vests!'

If you think your child would also benefit from this vest, please contact the occupational therapists in TreeHouse, and we would be delighted to arrange a trial for your child to try it out (hmoore@treehouseschool.org.uk). For more information on the vests, you can look at the website <http://www.squeasewear.com/>



## TreeHouse School ran its first annual Transition Event

for parents/carers of pupils in Years 11, 12, 13 & 14 on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.

The event was held in the training suites. Fifteen service providers came along with information on how their services can help our pupils and families. Sectors included education, support, work experience and charities.

26 pupils attended the event and 17 families came along too. Following on from feedback there is likely to be another event soon to provide the opportunity for families to meet with support and respite services. Watch this space!

Clare Caccavone—Development Manager 6th Form



## Ballet Boyz

It was an absolute delight to have Karl Morgan and the Balletboyz visit us on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April. They delivered a 'Ballet 4 Autism' workshop for the lower school and, wow, what an incredible experience...

Personally, it confirmed that the dance programme we are currently running here is definitely making a positive impact on our pupils. The sessions invite them to explore creative ideas, thoughts and imagination using movement and music. This helps boost their sense of self and it's a joy seeing their faces light up.

Here's a little piece in the press to support the visit:

'The boyz are back in town. A company of ballet dancers leapt to the assistance of children in a special needs school last week, with a workshop designed to help autistic children with movement and coordination.'

<http://www.northlondon-today.co.uk/article.cfm?id=110643>

Many thanks to all the tutors and staff who supported this event!



**Cathy Underwood  
Dance & Yoga Tutor**



## New Early Years pupils in Chestnut class



We are extending a huge Tree-House welcome to Taha and Bolu who joined our school a few weeks ago. They are both settling in really well and getting used to the school routine.

Taha having fun in the playground on the right:

Bolu enjoying the sun outside on the left:

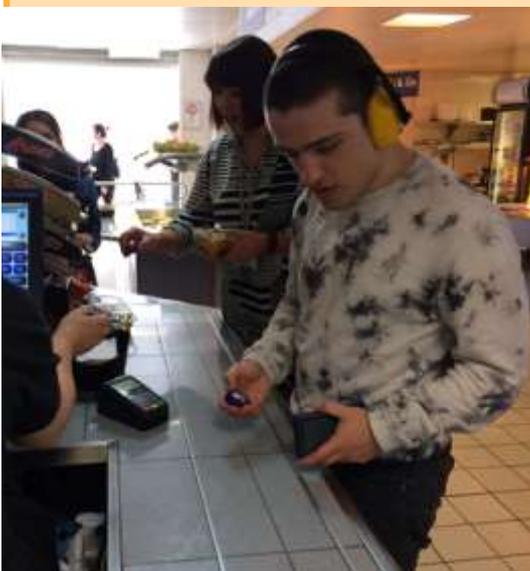


## **College Link—Treehouse School and Ambitious College**

The College Links programme between TreeHouse School and Ambitious College continues to be a great success! Six TreeHouse School pupils, who have a conditional offer to start Ambitious College in September, have visited the site every Wednesday to prepare for adulthood and college life.

This term we extended our Wednesday visits to include lunchtime. After completing the group activity in the morning, pupils walk through the college to the Barnet & Southgate College canteen. All pupils have had opportunities to choose their own lunch or a snack from the canteen, then pay for it at the counter. We all sit together at a big table eating our lunch – it is fantastic to see TreeHouse School pupils becoming a part of the college community!

**Nicola Lambourne, ABA Supervisor**





# The Pride Patrol

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, TreeHouse School launched the Pride Patrol. This is a group of volunteers who want our school to look clean and tidy so that they can show pride in where they learn.

The volunteers work across all areas of the school to litter pick and generally make our school look its best.



The Pride Patrol works on a rota which is populated to coincide with lessons on Citizenship, Community and Work Related Learning.



Due to the recent sunny weather a lot of the 'Pride Patrollers' work has been outside in the school grounds.

They are currently clearing the playgrounds, gardens, Outside Games Area, classrooms, corridors, in fact everywhere and anywhere that they can detect litter to be tidied away.

If you see The Pride Patrol, be sure to congratulate them on a job well done.....

Kevan Wayne-Morris (Deputy Head)

## Using iPads to support Teaching & Learning



Using technology to support teaching and learning has many advantages. Almost everyone has a smart phone and or an i-pad these days. So what better way to ensure that teaching and learning is fun, mobile, dignified and discrete, and increases autonomy, confidence and inclusion!! You can choose from a wide range of visuals such as, abstract pictures, identical pictures, video footage, associated sounds with pictures or a video clip to support discrimination, and a wide variety of apps to choose from. The pictures above evidence three pupils using three different types of visuals to support their independence. Faisal is following video footage to guide him how to clean the windows, Ed is using an app called I prompt pro to follow a visual schedule and Eli is following a visual shopping list for a cooking session.

An excellent use of technology to support independence!!

**Barbara Graf, BA**

## **Arts Afternoon 27 April 2016**

Staff, students and families had a splashing time at this years TreeHouse Arts afternoon. Pupils from across the school had the opportunity to come together to create! The Sports Hall was taken over by a drawing disco allowing everyone to draw and move freely around the space making marks and pictures. We also saw the return of the popular "Splash Zone" in which pupils could dress up in overalls and splash and splatter paint onto a large collaborative artwork. This year also saw some new additions including a music and sound station where pupils could use a variety of instruments to create sounds that represented their pictures and a collage of colour cellophane around the windows of the school atrium. Thank you to everyone who came to support this very messy and fun event! We created a number of beautiful collaborative works together, some of which have already found a permanent home displayed proudly in our Sixth Form library area.



**Naomi Delamore, Art Specialist**



## Dates for your diary

30 May—03 June	Half Term.
06 June	Term starts. School open to pupils from 9am
17 June	Parent Workshop & Sports Day KS5
22 June	Parent Workshop & Sports Day KS 1-3
24 June	Parent Workshop & Sports Day KS4
29 June	Transition to Adult Life 10.00—14.00
01 July	Inset Day—School Closed to Pupils
04 July	Inset Day—School Closed to Pupils
08 July	Year 14 Graduation
13—15 July	Year 11 Caldecott Experience
29 July	Last day of School
29 August	Bank Holiday
30 August	Inset Day
31 August	Term starts. Pupils welcome from 9am



### Staff Updates and Developments:

#### Welcome to...

Elitsa Nedelcheva—Senior ABA Tutor  
Elenza Tzaneva—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Ilona Gebus—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Nyasha Muponda—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Cheryl Louise—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Maria Acosta—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Francesca Saponaro—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Bhavini Rajden—ABA Tutor  
Liam McGarr—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Euan McArthur—Trainee ABA Tutor

#### Congratulations to..

Tanyal Salih—ABA Tutor  
Ivana Scurria—ABA Tutor  
Siobhan Kennedy—ABA Tutor  
Khushel Valji—ABA Tutor  
Mary Rowlands—ABA Tutor  
Rachel Weaver—ABA Tutor  
Chloe Vincett—ABA Tutor (graduated)  
Kerthika Pirabakaran—ABA Tutor (graduated)  
Alexandra Reitemeier—ABA Tutor (graduated)

Brinda Chumun—Class Teacher (temporary)

#### Goodbye to..

Sarah Needham—Key Skills Teacher  
Sarah Dobson—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Amelia Smart—ABA Tutor (maternity leave)  
Lindy Sibanda—ABA Tutor (maternity leave)  
Smerelda Monforte—ABA Tutor  
Selina Sanchas—Trainee ABA Tutor  
Alexandra Reitemeier—to return in September 2016



**TreeHouse  
School**

At the heart of



**Ambitious  
about Autism**

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