

Newsletter

January 2023

Alternative
Learning
Trust



<https://www.alternativelearningtrust.org.uk>

“

”

**I AM NO LONGER ACCEPTING
THE THINGS I CANNOT
CHANGE. I AM CHANGING THE
THINGS I CANNOT ACCEPT.**

– ANGELA DAVIS



Professor Angela Davis

Through her **activism** and **scholarship** over the last decades, Angela Davis has been **deeply involved in a quest** for **social justice**. Her work as an **educator** – both at the university level and in the larger public sphere – has always emphasised the importance of **building communities** of struggle for **economic, racial, and gender justice**.

Like many other educators, Professor Davis is especially concerned with the general tendency to devote more resources and attention to the prison system than to educational institutions.

High Ashurst Alternative Learning Trust Training

We started this academic year with a Trust training day. This whole day was really energising; we looked at a strategic Trust vision and each school's vision, as well as spending some amazing time team-building and developing relationships.



Alternative Learning Trust

LOVE

COMMUNITY

SOCIAL JUSTICE

FLOURISH

As a Trust we hold our values strongly in all we do and we endeavour to **support** our schools with a light touch; **supporting** where we need to and moving all of our schools to be as **autonomous** as we can and individually developed for, and by, their local **community** - advocating for the most vulnerable locally and, as a Trust, this is mirrored in our national **social justice** and inclusion work.

DfE AP Stakeholder Group, DfE Transition Group, DfE Behaviour Group, DfE Attendance Group and national Stakeholder Group.

Each of the schools are on their own pathway and journey and some will need more **support** than others at different times. As small organisations, Alternative Provision (AP) can be vulnerable to changes in staffing and leadership and as a Trust set up as a **family/community** of schools this is really mitigated as other **community** provisions can support and help each other. This is very much apparent in the work between North West Kent Alternative Provision Service and Will Adams Academy where they are currently developing resources and support together to make both schools stronger and more **autonomous**.

As we enter a new year, 2023, it is a good time to stop and acknowledge what happened in 2022 and look forward to the year ahead.

We grew as a Trust, adding Will Adams Academy to North West Kent Alternative Provision Service and The Limes College. This means we are now **servicing** over 300 children who are at **risk of exclusion** or who are **excluded** from school. With the work we do in outreach this will double to over 600 children **supported** over the last year. As we start on the development journey with Will Adams Academy, we have had a term to work with the provision

to understand its development needs and are now working with Governors and staff to access the benefits of being in a Trust. We are also seeing North West Kent Alternative Provision Service and The Limes College continuing on their development journeys. Below we have some highlights of the great work all of the provisions have **achieved** in the last term.

As a Trust we have a clear mandate to grow and **support** Alternative Provision and become a **home** for more provisions. This **growth** is in line with Department for Education's vision set out in the Green and White Papers (links were published in the previous newsletter and are again provided below).

SCHOOLS WHITE PAPER

[Schools White Paper delivers real action to level up education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/schools-white-paper)

www.gov.uk

SEND GREEN PAPER

[Summary of the SEND review: right support, right place, right time - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/summary-of-the-send-review-right-support-right-place-right-time)

www.gov.uk



THE LIMES COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Students organised, planned, and used a multitude of curriculum areas to deliver a school Christmas Fair involving face-painting and karaoke, raising over £300 for charity.
- ◆ The Limes College has also been developing reading across the curriculum.
- ◆ We have also supported local AP providers to develop and be quality assured.





NWKAPS HIGHLIGHTS



Two of our students ran to be elected as Kent Youth County Councillors. They ran a campaign raising awareness for mental health and underprivileged children needing Free School Meals to be provided. Their manifesto was shared across all of the schools in Kent so that school children could vote for who they felt would have the best ideas to have a position on the Kent Youth County Council and both students were voted in as full members of the Gravesham Youth Council and Dartford Youth Council.

The We See You Award recognises students' positive attitude, behaviour and work. Positive comments are made by teachers and, more importantly, from the students' peers. As a SEMH school, our students have self-esteem issues on various levels; therefore, highlighting that 'We See You' for who they are and how awesome they are is a great way to boost their self-esteem – especially when comments are given by students who they are not necessarily friends with. The award has had a positive impact on student morale, as those who wrote comments have said “when am I getting my award?”



NWKAPS' effective reading journey: we had a whole school focus during the afternoon reading time, with us ALL joining this time. At NWKAPS we are all encouraged to set a positive example for our learners to read; to aid closing the gap for our low-level reading abilities and improve our teaching and their stronger memory skills.

Reading helps to strengthen memory retention skills. That's a powerful tool for young students – and older adults, too. We believe it is important that for our students to be a success in life they can access texts of all kinds – the opportunities are endless.

Reading for all was monitored and recorded with bookmarks; incentives of book tokens and vouchers were then gratefully received by all.

All staff and students are continuing to read during our reading time – it's now embedding into our whole school reading culture. Check out our amazing readers above!

The workshops below have been delivered at The Limes College and NWKAPS and are planned for Will Adams Academy.

Five minutes of madness – a lifetime of regret

An incredible workshop was delivered by an amazing couple who lost their son to violence. They explained how it changed their lives and the lives of the young men who were sent to prison for murder, the ripple-effects, the regrets and the waste of life.

The presentation was extremely powerful; explaining to the young people at NWKAPS how they were told about the death of their son, the circumstances of the murder, the trial, and the sentencing. The couple explained about their decision to meet the boys responsible and how it had a profound effect on all of them.



Two members of the Amy Winehouse Foundation came to talk to the young people at NWKAPS about their experiences with substance misuse. They shared their journey from the reasons they first got involved with drugs, the underlying consequences of substance abuse, to their recovery, experiences of mental health problems, homelessness and risk-taking behaviours.

The workshop was delivered truthfully and honestly, giving young people a wider contextual understanding of issues, as well as learning how to make better informed choices about their own lives.



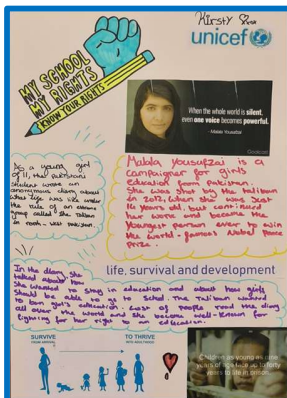
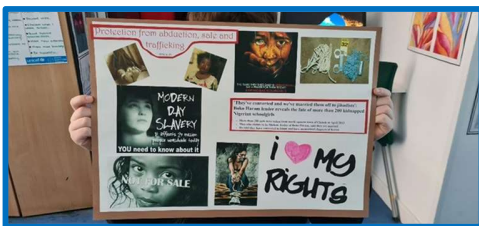
An inspirational young man who talked about his life as a teenager, the risks he had taken, the crimes he had been involved in, and the reasons he had got involved. He talked about his time in prison and how it has affected (and is still affecting) his life - and will always impact on everyday opportunities and decisions because he has to reveal his criminal record.

He explained Joint Enterprise to NWKAPS students and the implications and lack of understanding amongst young people. His hope is to make a difference to young people's lives and to help them, through his own experiences, to avoid the gang culture – ultimately helping them to realise their full potential.



WILL ADAMS ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS

- The school has had a really successful work experience programme completed for all of their Year 11 students.
- Will Adams Academy, as a UNICEF Rights Respecting school, has been working on developing students' vocabulary so that they understand their rights and has created an ABCDE of Rights (below).
- Students have also been working hard on their Art coursework.



THE A,B,C,D,E OF RIGHTS... THEY ARE YOURS AND NOBODY CAN TAKE THEM FROM YOU

Rights are for **ALL** children **UNIVERSAL**

Rights are there at **BIRTH**, **INHERENT**

Rights CANNOT be taken away, INALIENABLE

Rights **DO NOT** have to be earned, **UNCONDITIONAL**

All rights are **EQUALLY** important, **INDIVISAIBLE**



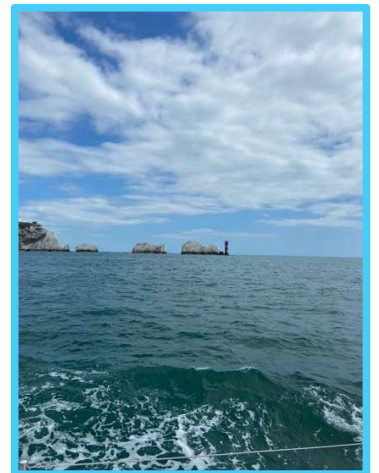
Governance

We would like to welcome two new Trustees, James Munro and Jenny Barrow, who were both appointed to the Trust Board in October 2022. James will also be serving on the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and Jenny has joined the Governance and Growth Committee. Both Trustees bring new skills and experience to the Trust Board; their full profiles are on the Trust's website.

Central Team developments

- We have appointed a further Finance Officer to support with CFO reporting and to release time for the CFO to develop more strategic work.
- We have also increased capacity in the central HR Team with a part-time post.
- A new Clerk to Governors has been appointed for NWKAPS and Will Adams Academy and will also provide part-time support within the central Governance Team. A new Clerk to Governors has also been appointed for The Limes College.
- A safeguarding post has also been added to the Central Team.

As we move into 2023 we look to the horizon and developing our community to flourish, support with love, and through social justice ensure that we get all of our students into positive destinations and successful next steps in their lives.



The Trust has funded a Tall Ships joint trip between Will Adams Academy and NWKAPS to support the development of learning outside the classroom in those schools.

Emma Bradshaw
Executive Principal