

NEWSLETTER
JULY 2023

Alternative
Learning
Trust



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

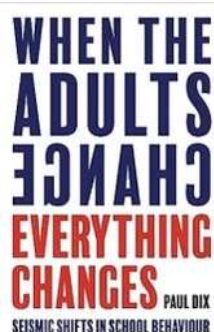


As I visit and see the work we do, acknowledged by the children themselves, our parents, other agencies and external organisations such as Ofsted, the quote below by Paul Dix resonates in so much of who we are. We have a flair for finding and training remarkable heroes.

Thank you

Wishing you all a good summer; a time to reflect and enjoy some time off! Have a great break and I look forward to working with you all in the next school year.

Emma



When the Adults Change, Everything Changes. Paul Dix.

'They [alternative provision schools] have a knack of finding and training remarkable heroes; teacher and support professionals who will dodge a chair, soak up angry abuse and, moments later, inspire learning with delicate encouragement.' Dix, 2017, p154 (*When the Adults Change, Everything Changes*).

Dix advocates five pillars of practice which he details through the book: consistent, calm, adult behaviour; first attention for best conduct; relentless routines; scripting difficult interventions; restorative follow-up [9 Jan 2020]
This is who we are and what we do.

We have been, and will continue, working with the Anna Freud Centre this year to look at how we celebrate parents and engage with them systemically. We have arranged a bespoke visit to their school where parents and children learn together.

'A child who is understood will understand parents and teachers better.'
Professor Peter Fonagy – Chief Executive of Anna Freud Centre.

This is our goal and all we have done this year has led us to this place ... ready to send our amazing Year 11s out into the world.

World Health Organisation

The World Health Organisation describes what we want for all our children:

'A state of wellbeing in which the individual realises their own abilities and can cope with the moral stresses of life, can work productively ... and make a contribution to their community.'

Trust update

- We have been working across the Trust to develop our central team to support growth.
- We will be moving into a separate Trust office from September 2023.
- We have completed an External Review of Governance (ERG) this year and governance will be a key area of development next year.
- Exploring our diversity will also be a key leadership focus next year.
- We have also published our 'Core Offer' of services from which all schools will benefit.
- We had an exceptionally good audit report this year, celebrating all that goes on in our school business management teams and our central team – this area makes each of our schools able to do what they do so well.
- We have developed an interactive calendar to support school leadership teams.
- We have further developed our risk management processes and have an interactive risk management tool for the Trust and each school.
- We have established a hub in Medway and Kent which is growing and developing.
- The hub in south London is growing, too. Alternative Learning Trust is growing in many ways.

- The new school joining Alternative Learning Trust will be Saffron Valley Collegiate:



We look forward to welcoming their staff and Governors when they join us in September 2023.

More importantly, the following pages provide a taste of all that has been going on in our schools



THE LIMES COLLEGE

Some of the events we have put together this year include

30 September 2022 - British Army Youth STEM visit
10 February 2023 - Careers Morning
15 March 2023 - Opendoors Construction event at Palmerston Way
27 March 2023 - Food/Drink Festival at Ideal Home Show
28 March 2023 - Power Up Workshop
17 April 2023 - Entrepreneurship - Business and Branding Workshop
18 April 2023 - Creative Industry Insight at Cryer Arts Theatre
25 April 2023 - Teentech Festival at Roehampton University
2 May 2023 - Detective Project Workshop
4 May 2023 - Medical Mavericks Workshop
8 June 2023 - Work Insight with CL Events Management
9 June 2023 - Sutton NHS Careers Fair
16 June 2023 - Visit to Sutton Community Fridge
30 June 2023 Sutton STEAM EVENT



In June we also hosted the local area (Sutton) Student Council where over 40 students and teachers from other schools debated the issues of vaping in schools and what schools could do to tackle this problem. The Limes College's students prepared presentations on the dangers of vaping, to present to the other students, and spoke about how Student Voice works at The Limes College.



On 21 June, some of our students visited Radio Jackie and went live on air – below is a copy of the write-up from Joe (one of our Year 10 students) who spoke live on the radio.

NEWSPAPER



Inside the Radio Jackie headquarters

Students explore the world of radio

JOE – 21 JUNE 2023

As soon as we arrived at Radio Jackie I was buzzing with excitement. It was really interesting and there was lots to be learned from the Managing Director Steve. He gave us lots of information about Radio Jackie and where it all started.

Joe led the live broadcast with Limes' students

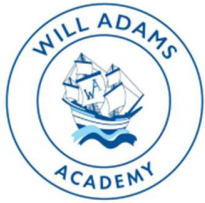


Students met Paul Coia, who was live and broadcasting on the radio.

'FASCINATING AND FUN'

He kindly let us enter the broadcasting room where the radio was live, which was amazing. We were greeted by Paul Coia who introduced himself to us and was telling us about the live broadcast and how it works. It was so fascinating and fun!

We were then allowed to speak live on the radio, where we introduced ourselves and our fantastic school. I would highly recommend this visit to Radio Jackie to anyone who has the chance to go and to lots of different schools. Such wonderful people and so much to learn.



WILL ADAMS ACADEMY

Art exhibition



Our students' work was exhibited in the GENfest Festival earlier in June at the Gulbenkian Theatre. The GENFest programme showcases up-and-coming local creatives and usually features a mix of live theatre, dance, music and stand-up comedy, plus short film screenings and an art exhibition. We have been emailed by some of the organisers of the event and, apparently, our students' work went down brilliantly. Many lovely comments were made about how creative, vibrant and fun the children's podcasts and artwork was.

MEBP work experience



Our Year 10 students have just successfully finished an extended six-week work experience programme. Students have experienced the realities of the world of work for an extended period, gaining invaluable life skills and, in the case of one student, earned themselves an apprenticeship.

Football tournament



Our students have been involved in multiple inter-AP football tournaments. Alongside NWKAPS we have taken on APs in New Haven and Millwall and plan to expand this competition further in 2023/2024.



NWKAPS

North West Kent Alternative Provision Service is as busy as ever ...



January started with a residential for KS3 in Ashford ...

Students had a three night stay with activities focusing on their Boxall targets.



Baroness Bennett visited NWKAPS as part of the Learn with the Lords scheme ...

Baroness Bennett was so impressed that she mentioned NWKAPS in the House of Lords – watch the clip here:

<https://www.nataliebennett.org/latest/send-and-alternative-provision>



We continue to engage with services through our coffee afternoon ...

15 professionals attended our last coffee afternoon, with students giving tours and the SEMH team providing free resource packs from our Permission to feel intervention.

Year 11s completed their exams in a brilliant fashion – and earned a trip to Chessington ...

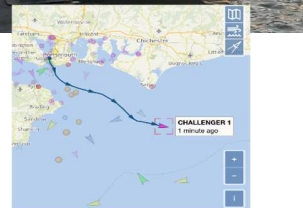
As a final goodbye and reward, Year 11s spent the day riding roller coasters and having a great time on their reward trip.



New year, new start ...

Transition week welcomed the Year 9s and 10s into their new year groups.

- Monday: Core is key workshops
Wagamama lunch for all!
World of work at Wagamama
- Tuesday: Core option block tasters
Introduction to science
- Wednesday: Vocational block tasters
NWKAPS first - Careers Fair
- Thursday: Camping trip
- Friday: Camping trip
- Monday: Option choice parent meetings



David Hockney's Bigger and Closer show at the Lightroom impressed one of our Year 11 artists...



A pizza finished off Comfort's second visit to London in style!



The Trust paid for two voyages for The Kent and Medway hub – NWKAPS was lucky enough to have students enjoy both journeys. The students were overwhelmed by the opportunities they had been offered on the trip and had an amazing time.