



March 2024 Newsletter

It seems like a long time since the Christmas break as we have all been so busy supporting children, each other and other provisions out there that are more isolated than we are. The Behaviour Hubs' work we do really shows us the benefit of standing together and not alone.



Life has been hectic in our Kent and Medway hub as our commissioning is growing and the impact of what we do is recognised. We are excited to announce that we have been awarded a Free School to build and open in Gravesham to support the local authority and mainstream schools in that area. We are also working with colleagues in three trusts to support other work on the Isle of Sheppey.

It is good to see the Kent and Medway hub growing and developing assessment work alongside delivering education for the most vulnerable.



The South London schools are growing, too, and Saffron Valley Collegiate will be officially with us for the summer term although, as far as we are concerned, they have been part of Alternative Learning Trust's family since September 2023. The Limes College and Saffron Valley Collegiate have been working together on various projects and Saffron Valley Collegiate is supporting The Limes College in setting up a multi-agency Taskforce to support children. Saffron Valley Collegiate ran a Taskforce from the DfE pilot project and it has been so successful in getting children therapeutic input, which has led to The Limes College seeking to create its own team and work together.

The Alternative Provision Specialist Taskforce Model – Improving Outcomes for Children in AP

APST is a workforce model the DfE has been testing since 2021, which draws on the evidence of how to deliver impactful and timely support to improve outcomes for children in AP. Local areas may be particularly interested in adopting the model or elements of it as part of their strategic plans for SEND and AP.



We also stand together as a community in all of the challenges we face. In recent weeks, staff have dealt with significant behaviour incidents, including children displaying really challenging behaviour. We have suffered loss, too. In any school community, losing a student who is either still with us or who has left us is hard, as they are part of our family. We currently remember those families who have been, or are part of, our communities who have experienced loss.

'Exit loss, enter hope' – Lemn Sissay

We will come out of tough situations with learning, more resilience and deeper loving relationships with each other and our community. We will advocate for young people even after they have left us, so that the system becomes better for others who walk in their shoes.



Our Governors have also been amazing and are always very much appreciated. Local Governing Bodies are supported by our Governance Team whose work was recognised recently by our auditors and by a compliance deep-dive at the Trust's bank. This is one of the important areas we provide for our schools, ensuring they are meeting the needs of their communities and are accountable and compliant; and yet, this is so often the under-recognised part of what we do. I have met a number of our Governors this term and would like to thank you for your selfless service – you are an amazing and diverse group and all you do is really appreciated.

I would like to welcome three new Governors who have been appointed this term:

- ❖ Dean Clark, who has joined The Limes College's Local Governing Body
- ❖ Shanea Underwood, who has joined Will Adams Academy's Local Governing Body
- ❖ Laura Wareing, who has joined Will Adams Academy's Local Governing Body

A lot has happened this term as Alternative Learning Trust. In all of this, the Central Team has been amazing in delivering strong outcomes through audits and supporting schools through Ofsted. They have been looking after the staff teams, ensuring children get a good education, project-managing David and me, looking after the money and buildings – and so much more. Our Central Team is a really fantastic group of dedicated people making everything work.

To our schools' teams – as I visit you all and witness first-hand your tireless energy, you never cease to amaze me: from your creative responses to the learning needs of our cohort and their families, to your resilience in the face of adversity. There is a song by an old '90's group whose chorus is:

**'I get knocked down,
But I get up again,
You're never going to keep me down'**

These lyrics come to mind as I write this and think of all of you out there in our schools, personifying resilience - and that is the modelling our children and families need.

Although an Easter break is also just what you all need, so I hope that it is a time for all of you to reflect, spend time with friends and family, do some of the things that make you feel happy and enjoy some peace and quiet. Then we will all be ready to 'get up again'.



**'Once a year, go somewhere you have
never been before'
The Dalai Lama**



Emma



Prize for the first person to get back to me with the name of the band whose lyrics I refer to.

Will Adams Academy

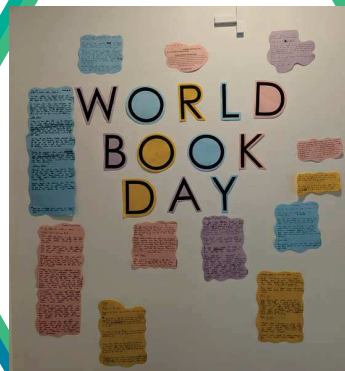
The journey so far...

kca.
KNOWLEDGE . CHANGE . ACTION

We have, as a school, been involved in the Medway Trauma Informed whole school approach training. This program culminates with a whole school CPD day where this information will be disseminated to all school staff, further supporting our trauma experienced students.



The Bank of England visited Will Adams to deliver careers, finance and employability sessions. These interactive face to face sessions were enjoyed by all and formed part of this year's careers and cultural capital program.



Staff and students participated in World Book Day and celebrated our love of books and reading. There were some fantastic costumes on display, especially from the English Department.



CHRIS DONOVAN TRUST

CHANGING LIVES, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Some of our staff have been involved in training with the Donovan Trust. This Trust provides restorative justice training which will form a crucial role in our positive behaviour policy.

Will Adams Academy

The journey so far...



Our upcoming end of term trip will be Go Ape. Voted for by our students, we hope this trip ends our term with a bang and allows our Year 11's to blow off some steam before the stressful exam season to come.

WAA marked Pi Day, honoring the mathematical constant π (pi), with a range of competitions and activities engaging students. Kudos to the Math department for extending mathematical learning beyond traditional classroom boundaries.

This term, the We See You Awards were dedicated to the teachers! Students penned heartfelt comments expressing their appreciation for the educators. They particularly emphasized the teachers' dedication to providing an engaging learning experience.

The Limes College



University Talk

Students were visited by Zoe from the Widening Participation Team of Northeastern University to hear about life at Northeastern University. They delivered an engaging and informative assembly regarding university life and covered topics such as campus life, fees, wellbeing, societies and the range of courses available across the country. This assembly will be followed up with a visit to the university campus for an interested group of students later on in the academic year.



National Apprenticeship Show

Students attended the National Apprenticeship Show at Sandown Racecourse. This was an opportunity for them to learn about different career paths, explore apprenticeship opportunities and obtain information on career development. The aim was to leave students inspired to make informed decisions on their preferred career.

Careers and Mock Interview Day

Careers and Mock Interview Morning at The Limes College On Friday 23 February our Year 11 students took part in our annual careers event. Business volunteers from the local community with a wide range of knowledge and expertise were invited along to give our students the chance to practice their interview technique. This provided students with the opportunity to experience an interview situation prior to starting further education, training or work placement. We also arranged a variety of workshops facilitated by our colleagues at NESOCOT and the Department for Work and Pensions.





KS4 London Fire Brigade Visit

KS4 Students attended an employer encounter day with the London Fire Brigade. Several firefighters presented the session which aimed to provide information to young people about what it is like working as a firefighter and included: skills and attributes needed, employability and expectations, working conditions/salaries etc, and routes into the industry. Also discussed were the reality, emotion and achievement that comes with the role.

The students then went on to explore the appliance; how all the different equipment works, the tools, uniform and breathing equipment etc. This was both a formative and hands-on experience. A Q&A session followed.

Chinese New Year

Students arranged a Chinese New Year celebration for the whole school as part of their maths lessons, linking careers to the curriculum. Students were responsible for deciding on products, procurement, budgeting, advertising, creating products, decorating and serving. Staff and fellow students thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and there was much praise for the delicious food, clever placemats giving information about Chinese New Year animals, and the overall atmosphere and decoration.



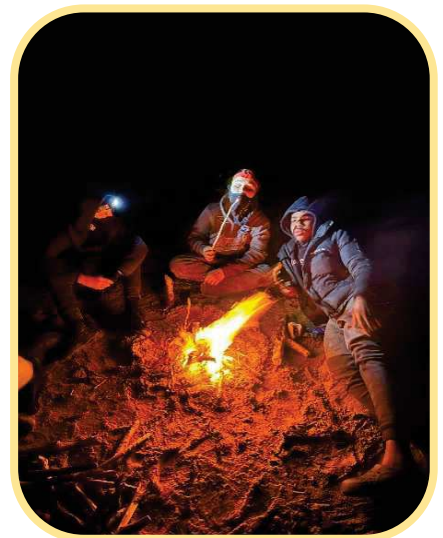
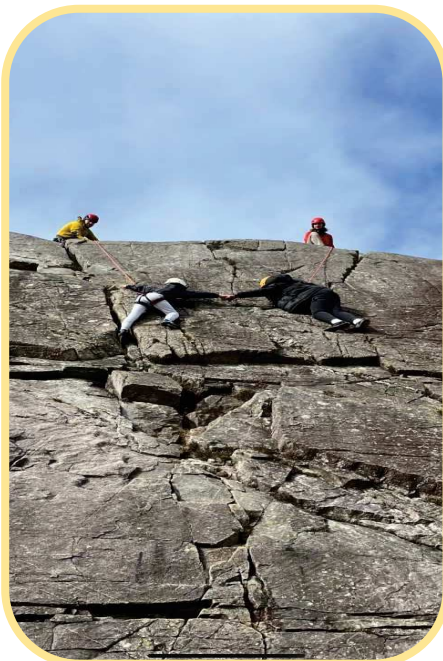
Parliament Visit

Representatives from the Outreach Department of the British Parliament met with students. The students took part in lively debates regarding current laws and liberties, and learned about how to become a Member of Parliament or Representative of the House of Lords.

The Limes College Primary

This term, our primary pupils have been taking part in horse riding. They have been going each week and has proved very popular.

The annual climbing residential to Wales was a huge success this year. The pupils engaged in outdoor climbing, camp fire building and archery. They described it as “the best trip they have ever been on!” We were blessed with blue sky and sunshine for the whole week.





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

Residential trips galore!

IT's been a busy term for residential trips! KS3 started January off with a brave snow filled trip. It was really nice to see them applying their Boxall targets in such a wide range of activities.



Our older students, were then offered a chance to build their soft skills for exams, such as time management with a weekend away. They kept staff awake with their excitement but all had a great time and feeling confident for their exams.



World Book Day fun...

We continue our dedication to reading through our World Book Day celebrations! Staff fully embraced the day with book characters being represented. In classes, quizzes kept us on our toes with our story knowledge and we all engaged in a virtual author talk.

Reading continues to be a big part of each and every day!



Mocks...

While KS3 were off in the snow, KS4 sat their mocks. We were really impressed with how seriously they took the expectations and understood the exam rules. We are now in full swing of preparations for the real thing!



Team work makes the dream work for our students at football...

We've seen some superb sportsmanship from our young people during their football. It's also been great to see them look smart while playing in their new kit!



Aspirational collaboration with Gads Hill...

Following a recommendation for Gads Hill to work with us on Careers and Destinations (due to the brilliant work of our team), we are in the process of setting up a range of collaborative activities. Watch this space to find out more...!



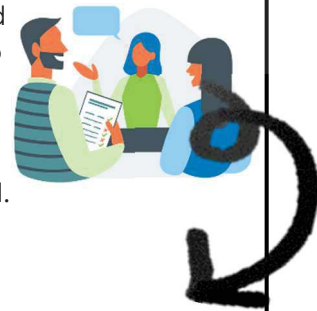
Restorative Training with the Donovan's Trust...

We have always found the Donovan's Trust amazing with our young people and their training about 'moments of madness' really engaging but this term they have trained 6 members of staff in restorative approaches. We are really looking forward to seeing how this work can support our young people.



Parents' meetings success...

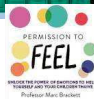
Staff were really pleased to see all of their work to engage parents really pay off with our Parent Meeting event being incredibly well attended. They were able to have key conversations to support the preparation for exams.



'Permission to Feel' success through SEMH Coaching Projects...

Kristina created our 'Permission to Feel' intervention following the research of Prof. Mark Brackett with the amazing handmade resource in the picture.

Within the SEMH coaching project this has been a very popular option for schools to find out more and is now being rolled out in many schools...



Vision and Values with the staff team...

In January, we reminded ourselves of our Vision and Values, focusing on how we as a team work together.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a strong team!



Hot out of the oven – Pi day!

Happening around the school as this newsletter is being written is Pi Day. Students are engaging in a range of fun challenges to test their maths knowledge of this useful number! Other subjects are joining in the fun looking at vocabulary and visual representations!

