



NEWSLETTER
JULY 2025

LOVE, SOCIAL JUSTICE, COMMUNITY, FLOURISH



As we reach the end of another year, I am reflecting on the many and different ways that we (the Trust team) and I, as CEO, communicate our thoughts to you all.

I have reflected that we send out both a card and a newsletter and that, as we highlight our values and vision, this newsletter speaks for itself as it is our schools that 'walk the talk'.

In the following pages you will see how our strong relationships and **LOVE** are the driving force of our work and build our **COMMUNITIES**, stand up for them, **SOCIAL JUSTICE**, and see them **FOURISH** at this time of year, as we watch our Year 11s fly the nest and take their place in the world.

You will hear stories of how each and every school is totally living out our mission to change lives.

We are working hard in each of our communities, developing provision that supports all of the mainstream schools in our local areas.

We are taking our place on national stakeholder groups, working with Ofsted, the DfE, London councils and fellow Special and Alternative Provision schools. We are in a strong place to influence national practice and changes and we are ready and willing to support new policies that will come out of the autumn White Paper, supporting the vulnerable and all of our communities to be more inclusive.

Now is a time to stop and reflect on an amazing year and all the work that has been done. We celebrate all this work as we consolidate who we are and the family that is **ALTERNATIVE LEARNING TRUST**.

We hope all of you (from our voluntary Governors, Trustees and Members, to each and every member of staff and the children and families we support) have a break over the summer and we look forward to a new term and new year in September. With our Trust INSET days focusing on Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Justice, we look ahead to another year changing lives.

Enjoy reading and seeing how each of our schools are delivering and demonstrating what a fantastic family we are.

Emma

TASTER DAY

We hosted a GCSE taster day, where students and parents were invited to attend mini sessions with each subject teacher, after which the students submitted their GCSE option choices. We received lots of positive feedback from both parents and students!

ART TRIP

Our GCSE art students' final project topic was Landmarks, so what is more fitting than a trip to London; Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, The London Eye, and the National Art Gallery! The students actively took pictures and sketches of these landmarks, which were then utilised in their final project.



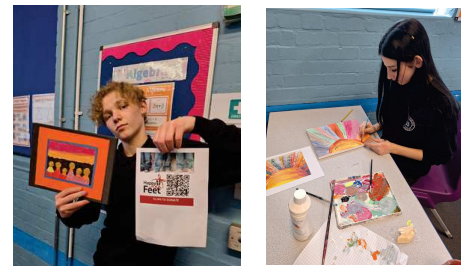
PROM

Students arrived all dressed up ready for the prom they helped plan. We had a DJ, photo booth, popcorn and candy floss machine and a bouncy castle! Students and staff alike had a great time dancing together.



FUNDRAISING

As part of the Respite curriculum for Maths, students planned and hosted a fundraiser for the charity Happy Feet, who provide brand new, well-fitting school shoes to underprivileged children in Africa. The students each painted and auctioned off their artwork to staff, as well as selling bottles of water, raising a total of £61.



Emma Smith completed a 25k trek in the South Downs, fundraising for the charity CoppaFeel!, who advocate for breast cancer awareness. She fundraised an incredible £503, over double her original target!



GRADUATION

Graduation was a huge success! We had a great turnout, and it was amazing to see the student's friends and family all come together to celebrate. Each student had a personal speech read about them, written either by themselves or staff members, before they received their certificates. Our student council member, Viktor, delivered an inspiring speech and those who attended DOMEAG also received their City & Guilds qualifications. After the ceremony, we had a raffle for the parents, photos and lots of food. We couldn't be prouder of our Year 11s, with how far they have come since joining us and how much further we know they will go after they leave.



Our Year 11 students completed their exams on the 16th June – Staff at EAN said goodbye with heavy hearts. This is where the work for our amazing destination team steps in for the final challenge, ensuring that our students remain committed to, and able to move on successfully to their intended destination.



At EAN we believe that the best transition in to the final year of secondary education is when we start immediately after the Year 11 exams. Our teachers have had to be super organised following 6 weeks of invigilating, supporting Year 11s through exams with extended day teaching timetables for KS3 and Year 10s. Overnight, they launched straight in to Year 10 Mocks and a revitalised curriculum offer for the whole school

– such amazing commitment as always!



Our SEMH Team organised visits to Chislehurst Caves and Chatham Dockyard for our current respite cohort. Our intervention days focus solely on working towards Boxall targets. A carefully designed curriculum and offer increases the chance of our students returning successfully to mainstream or another appropriate setting. Evidence from this carefully crafted curriculum offer is also used by our SEND team when reporting to the Local Authority during EHCP applications. Moving forwards our SEMH team will work more closely with the Assessment Team at Will Adams Academy - sharing good practise and launching training programmes to ensure that all of our classroom staff and stakeholders understand the value of the Boxall profile and our cleverly designed intervention day programmes.



Chatham Dockyard

Chislehurst Caves





Exams at Estuary Academy Island

This term marked our very first examination period at Estuary Academy Island, and we are proud to report a smooth and successful experience. Thanks to careful planning and the dedication of our staff, all processes ran efficiently, creating a calm and supportive environment for our students.

We were especially pleased with the high levels of student engagement and attendance throughout the exam period—a true reflection of their commitment and resilience. Well done to all our students for approaching this important milestone with focus and determination.

Year 11 Celebration Event

We were thrilled to mark a major milestone for our Year 11 students with a vibrant event celebrating the end of their GCSEs and their first year at Estuary Academy Island. The event was a joyful culmination of their hard work and dedication throughout the examination period. Families gathered in large numbers to share in the celebration, creating a wonderful community atmosphere. With a fantastic turnout and strong parental support, the day was made even more special with delicious BBQ food, sweet treats from the ice cream van, and music that kept spirits high throughout the event. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate our students' achievements!



Sports on Your Doorstep Boxing Intervention – Building Resilience Through Sport

As part of our commitment to enriching the student experience, Estuary Academy Island has partnered with *Sports on Your Doorstep* to deliver a powerful new intervention using boxing as a tool for personal growth. This innovative programme supports students in developing emotional resilience, discipline, and self-regulation through a blend of physical fitness, structured training, and guided mentorship.

Over the course of seven weeks, students are engaging in sessions that not only improve physical conditioning but also focus on managing frustration, anger, and stress. The workshops have already seen a noticeable increase in student engagement, with many participants expressing enthusiasm and a positive outlook as they build confidence, self-control, and leadership skills.

We are proud to offer this unique opportunity to support our students' emotional and personal development—inside and outside the ring.



DEJI Project

Our allocated theme for the trust project this year across both Estuary Academy Island and Nore Academy was 'Marriage and Civil Partnership.' Students were involved in creating a marriage display to highlight our involvement in the project.

It was embedded in tutor time and SMSC lessons to introduce the project and engage student conversations into what ingredients were needed for a successful committed relationship and using these 'layers of ingredients.' to create a wedding cake. Students also created mood boards, showing designs for wedding outfits, hair and make-up across both traditional weddings and civil partnerships. To maximise engagement, we created a Project Hub where students and staff got involved with celebrating the theme of marriage and civil partnerships. Staff shared photos, brought in items from their own weddings, including a 'guess whose dress' competition.



We are proud of what our students achieved and the maturity in some of their responses. Well done students of Estuary Academy Island and Nore Academy!

Estuary Academy Island and Nore Academy's joint Summer Community Event!

As we wrap up our incredible first year at Estuary Academy Island and Nore Academy, we're excited to invite families, friends, and the wider community to our **Summer Community Event**—a celebration of the hard work, resilience, and achievements of our students.



This event marks a special moment in our journey, bringing together both Estuary Academy Island and Nore Academy communities, and recognising the strong relationships built between students and staff over the past year.

We're thrilled to welcome a range of community partners to support a safe summer for our students, including *Sheppey Matters, the Salvation Army, Sea Cadets, Kent Police, New Leaf, Men Talk* and many more. There'll be something for everyone—a **food truck providing meals for all students, sweet treats like ice cream and candy floss, and exciting inflatables on the field.**

We are looking forward to celebrating our students' dedication and progress in what has been a milestone year for our school community!



Growth and Development

Over the past few months, Nore Academy has experienced incredible growth. We've welcomed several new staff members and have doubled our pupil numbers, creating a thriving and dynamic school community.

Looking ahead to September, we're excited to continue this journey as we welcome even more staff and an additional 15 pupils. It's a fantastic time to be part of Nore Academy!



Curriculum in action



We are proud of the breadth of curriculum we are developing in Nore Academy and seeing it come to life with our outdoor learning has been particularly special. We are excited about the installation of our new polytunnel which will add a further dimension to our scheme of learning in the next academic year. The benefits of outdoor learning are being felt across the school helping students link lessons to real world experiences and boosting their curiosity with their learning.

Year 5 Open Evening

As part of the upcoming phase transfer process, we were delighted to welcome Year 5 pupils and their families to Nore Academy for our Information Evening. Visitors had the opportunity to tour the school, meet staff, and get a feel for our vibrant learning environment.

Feedback from parents was incredibly positive, with many commenting on the welcoming atmosphere and how much they appreciated the genuine care shown by our staff.

Year 6 Transition Day

We were thrilled to welcome our new Year 6 pupils for their very first visit to Nore Academy! The day was filled with excitement as students met their new teachers, made new friends, and took part in a range of fun and engaging activities. From outdoor learning to team-building challenges, the day gave everyone a brilliant taste of life at Nore Academy — and we can't wait to see them again soon!



Enrichment at Nore Academy

It's been a fantastic term full of enrichment opportunities at Nore Academy!

Pupils have enjoyed a wide range of exciting trips and activities, including fishing, horse riding, visits to Yew-Tree Farm and Wingham Wildlife Park, and participation in Challenger Troop.

We've also had inspiring visitors, including an Olympic athlete, and now host weekly sessions with both a boxing therapy and a football therapy company.

Our Sea Forts 2 class has even launched their own Esports team and are already celebrating some brilliant successes.

With so much going on, it's no wonder we can't list it all — but we're proud to offer such a rich and varied experience for our pupils!



Primary

Bocketts Farm Trip

Primary students visited Bocketts Farm. We had a wonderful time petting animals, jumping on trampolines, riding on a tractor and watching a pig race. We were very lucky and got to watch some lambs being born. Our students made us proud, engaging in all activities and behaving beautifully all day.



Chessington World of Adventures

The Primary Limes trip to Chessington was a reward trip for students who have made good choices, improved their behaviour and engaged well with their learning.

The students enjoyed going on the rides including a Zufari ride to see the rhinos and giraffes and visiting the sea life centre. It was a good day had by all and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Thank you to the Primary staff for all their support and hard work in making this trip a success.





THE LIMES COLLEGE

BELONG, RELATIONSHIPS, MOVE ON, ACHIEVE



Tall Ships



We have had another amazing week in the Solent with 6 young people with Tall Ships Youth Trust. We had a great mixture of weather over the week that allowed them to fully experience sailing, working as a team to sail the boat and experiencing it heeling over.

Another memorable experience was sailing in choppy conditions, standing on the bow riding the waves. The pupils loved the waves crashing over them and the roller coaster effect it gave.



The group spent a lot of time crabbing, fishing and catching jelly fish. They also enjoyed the inflatables in the salt water pool in Lymington Spa.

Another successful week of making life long memories.



BELONG, RELATIONSHIPS, MOVE ON, ACHIEVE

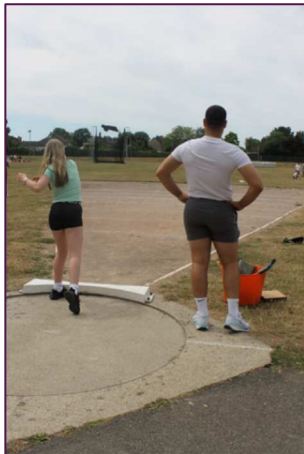
Sports day 2025

This year we have had our first ever Limes whole school sports day, off site at an athletics club. All of the pupils were put into vertical teams for the day and took part in 100m, 400m, 'welly wanging', long jump, tug of war and relay.

The pupils from reception to year 10 fully engaged and loved the competitive nature of the day. They were fully supportive of their teammates, with a lot of cheering and support throughout the day.

The staff versus students tug of war was a great success with only the primary pupils able to beat the staff team and a strong win for the staff against KS3 and KS4 teams!

The day ended with a medal ceremony and the sports day cup being presented to the winning team along with the sports personality of the day. It was a massive success, and we look forward to this becoming an annual event.



Unfiltered: A Powerful Celebration of Student Creativity at The Limes College

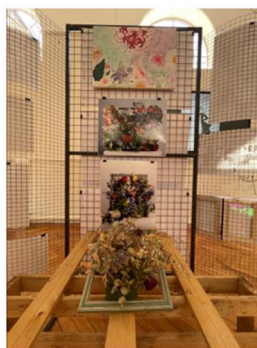
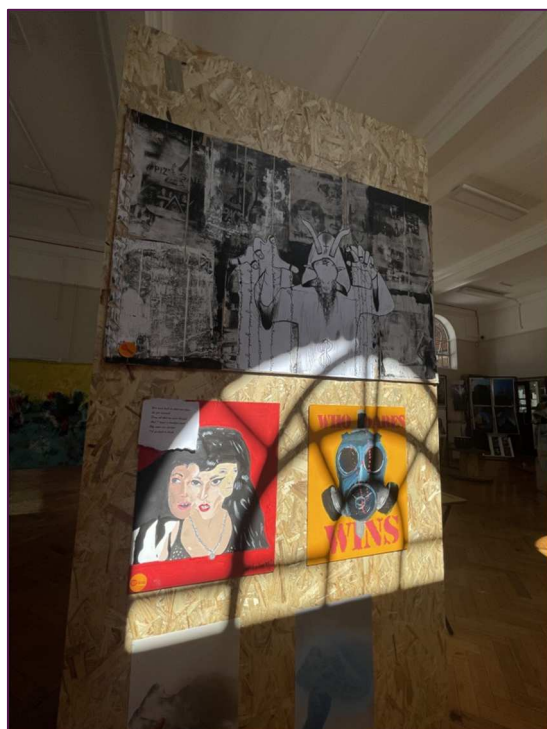
On 10th July, The Limes College hall became a vibrant gallery for the Summer Art Exhibition *Unfiltered*, a powerful showcase of student creativity. The event welcomed families, staff, governors, and the local community, all moved by the raw, personal artwork on display.

Organised by the Art Department, the exhibition highlighted the strength of community collaboration. Each piece reflected students' emotions and journeys, using art as a tool for healing and self-expression.

The students' artwork was sold in support of CentrePoint, a charity aiding homeless youth, and representatives expressed heartfelt gratitude for the meaningful and impactful contribution.

The students' pride and excitement were palpable, as they embraced the opportunity to be seen and celebrated. This successful event marks the beginning of a new tradition at The Limes College, affirming art's power to transform and empower.

Thank you to all who supported this unforgettable celebration of young voices.



Careers Events

Real Estate Workplace Insight with Valor Rep

Year 10 students visited a near-complete commercial construction site to learn more about commercial real estate. The event was hosted by Valor, and New Construction.

Students were given a tour of the entire site including external and internal elements. The students explored the six units that have been built for commercial warehouse purposes. They were encouraged to keep an eye out for anything that they thought may be sustainable. Identification of construction materials took place, and they were encouraged to think of the different uses for the spaces inside and outside of the units.



Visit to AFC Wimbledon Stadium

The Limes College students were greeted by Lana, a youth engagement officer who conducted a tour of the stadium.

The club participates in community work, opening its doors for the elderly & vulnerable adults with disabilities to use the space to get out of the house.



Carpentry Taster Session at Carshalton College (KS3 & KS4)

This career-related event was a great combination of a 'hands on' activity, short classroom session and a tour.



Teentech Festival

The Limes College joined a whole host of schools at Roehampton University to explore careers and education within the technology and STEM sectors, taking part in a range of interactive and hands-on activities alongside discussions with professionals and academics alike.

The festival takes the form of three zones and students explore each one to consider their own interests and individual pathways.



JACE Training Insight Day

Key Stage Four students were given the opportunity to visit JACE Training in Wallington to explore childcare as a possible future career pathway.



THE LIMES COLLEGE

BELONG, RELATIONSHIPS, MOVE ON, ACHIEVE

Thorpe Lakes

The Outreach team ran a Rewards trips for students who were working incredibly hard with their outreach mentors to boost their confidence and work towards their personal goals and development.



Leavers Event

This term The Limes College hosted our annual Showcase Day followed by the Year 11 Leavers Celebrations. We had many parents and visitors in throughout the day to find out more from teachers about how students were progressing in their subjects and also to celebrate the many achievements of the year.



BELONG, RELATIONSHIPS, MOVE ON, ACHIEVE

EDIJ Project – Sex and Equality

KS3 Cedella & Summar and KS4 South Rohan & Daniel were all absolute stars during filming. Winston (teacher) played the part of the interviewer with great finesse!



Taskforce Family Support Worker’s Perspective: Azim’s Journey Back to Mainstream Success



Azim & Amani Simpson_CEO of AVIARD Inspires & protagonist of 'AMANI' Short Film (starring Joivan Wade)

It has been a privilege to witness Azim’s incredible journey to empowerment. Initially engaging with us on the **Creative Empowerment Programme at KS4 North**, Azim was initially perceived

as a quiet Year 10 student struggling with trust and engagement following his exclusion from mainstream education. His passion for media—especially podcasting and vlogging—offered a crucial entry point for connection.

With consistent encouragement and a personalised approach, Azim gradually began to open up. His confidence grew session by session, particularly through his involvement in podcasting. Over time, he became a regular and valued participant, engaging with us in the community. He eventually stepped into a peer mentoring role during **P4YE** Friday and Saturday sessions, and he now collaborates with other young people to develop their creative voices.

Working closely with his family, especially his mother, was key to supporting Azim's progress. Her initial concerns were understandable, but with continued dialogue and visible changes in Azim's behaviour and engagement. She became a supportive ally, which enabled Azim to attend both the **Easter HAF Holiday Club and a residential trip**—milestones that marked his growing confidence and willingness to connect with peers.

We are incredibly proud to share that Azim has since successfully reintegrated into mainstream education, a testament to his resilience and growth. His efforts and contributions have not gone unnoticed—Azim was recently honoured with a **Jack Petchey Award** in recognition of his positive influence on peers and staff alike.

Azim's story is a powerful reminder of what young people can achieve with the right support, trust, and opportunities.

SVC Residential

The partnership between Project 4 Youth Empowerment(P4YE) and Saffron Valley Collegiate has played a pivotal role in delivering a successful Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for young people during the Easter Holiday. By combining Project 4's expertise in youth engagement and empowerment with Saffron Valley Collegiate's strong educational foundation and community reach, the programme has provided a supportive and inclusive environment where young people can thrive. Together, they have offered a rich blend of activities, nutritious meals, and tailored support that not only addresses the immediate needs of young participants but also fosters their personal growth, confidence, and well-being. This collaborative approach ensures that the HAF programme remains impactful, relevant, and accessible to the diverse youth community it serves.



Easter Residential - Hindleap Warren Activity Centre

Easter 2025 Saffron Valley Collegiate and Project 4 Youth Empowerment (P4YE) worked in partnership to organise an unforgettable three-day, two-night residential at the Hindleap Warren Activity Centre. The two-night, three-day residential trip at the Hindleap Warren Activity Centre and a total of 30 young people comprising students from three Saffron Valley Collegiate sites and young people who attend P4YE's activities from across Croydon and surrounding areas. Set deep in the Sussex countryside, this immersive outdoor experience gave students a rare opportunity to step away from their usual surroundings in Croydon and immerse themselves in the beauty and challenge of the great outdoors.

The trip focused on building confidence, teamwork, and resilience through a range of engaging activities, including team-building activities, the adrenaline-fueled *Leap of Faith* to the calm and coordination required for *canoeing*. This collaborative effort provided a valuable opportunity for young people to develop new skills, strengthen relationships, and enjoy a positive, enriching experience outside of their usual environment. The young people were constantly encouraged to push boundaries, support each other, and discover their inner strengths. Evening *night walks* allowed them to bond under the stars and explore nature in a new light, while structured group challenges helped to build resilience, communication skills, and self-belief.

One of the most impactful aspects of the experience was the digital detox: phones are put to one side, and the focus shifted to real-world connections, mindfulness, and the natural environment.

The residential was not only filled with adventure and laughter, but also with countless moments of personal growth and shared success. Young people returned with new friendships, powerful memories, and a renewed sense of purpose and confidence.

Saffron Valley Collegiate and Project for Youth Empowerment are proud to have facilitated this inspiring experience and look forward to many more initiatives that champion the potential of young people.

Saffron Valley Collegiate and Project for Youth Empowerment: Easter Holiday and Food Programme

In collaboration with Project for Youth Empowerment this Easter, Saffron Valley Collegiate hosted an exciting four-day holiday and food programme to bring together students and young people from the community for a fun, engaging, and enriching camp experience.

The Easter Camp allowed some students to view their school in a completely different light and, with their usual routines set aside, young people from across the community came together to take part in a wide range of dynamic activities. From hands-on **arts and crafts** and high-energy **football, basketball, and table tennis**, to immersive **gaming sessions** and thrilling competitions, each day brought new opportunities for creativity, teamwork, and fun.

A highlight of the camp was a group trip to **Oxygen Trampoline Park**, where students bounced, flipped, and laughed their way through a high-adrenaline experience. Back on site, the young people also got the chance to explore their culinary skills, creating tasty treats while learning practical life skills in a supportive, relaxed environment.

Throughout the camp, the young people in attendance enjoyed the various activities and connected with peers from different backgrounds, building friendships and a sense of community spirit. The programme provided a safe, enjoyable space for self-expression and growth, with daily nutritious food to support wellbeing.

To round off a fantastic week, each participant received a well-earned **Easter Egg**, leaving with smiles, new memories, and a greater sense of belonging.

This programme is a testament to the positive impact of engaging, community-led initiatives on young people's lives. Saffron Valley Collegiate and Project for Youth Empowerment are proud to have provided this opportunity and look forward to more enriching experiences.

D.E.A.R

Drop everything and read!

In March of this year, Saffron Valley rolled out a new initiative—DEAR, drop everything and read. DEAR is an event that typically takes place in most schools once a year however at Saffron Valley, we DEAR every week.

Literature is an extremely important part of learning. Not only does it allow young people to get lost in a fictional adventure but it is also a way for our young people to push themselves to improve their reading ability. A lot of the time, we find that a student will be reluctant to even set foot into an English classroom only to later realise that this because they struggle to read.

This agenda is to and has already helped students to improve their reading independently at their own pace. This initiative is to support students to be able to analyse and interpret information as well as draw insightful conclusions backed by evidence. We want our students to ultimately achieve beyond any expected targets they might have and become accomplished readers to enable them to access the whole school curriculum, not just English.

With an exclusive calendar, we have distributed DEAR during different periods each week across all four of our sites.

Spring 2	Date	Period
Week 1	Wednesday 26.02.25	4
Week 2	Thursday 06.03.25	2
Week 3	Monday 10.03.25	6
Week 4	Friday 21.03.25	4
Week 5	Tuesday 25.03.25	5
Week 6	Wednesday 02.04.25	1
Summer 1		
Week 1	Thursday 24.04.25	3
Week 2	Monday 28.04.25	5
Week 3	Tuesday 06.05.25	2
Week 4	Friday 16.05.25	4
Week 5	Thursday 22.05.25	6
Summer 2		
Week 1	Wednesday 04.06.25	4
Week 2	Monday 09.06.25	2
Week 3	Thursday 19.06.25	6
Week 4	Friday 27.06.25	5
Week 5	Tuesday 01.07.25	3
Week 6	Friday 11.07.25	1
Week 7	Tuesday 15.07.25	2

Reading Profile—Jessica

I am currently reading...

My top three favourite books

- Frankenstein
- Othello
- Perfume: The story of a murderer

My favourite genres:

- Gothic
- Mystery/thriller

With the help of teaching assistants, we have been able to place a book log in each book in order to keep track of how many books have read as well as allowing students to leave their signature as a sense of achievement.

In addition to this, we have collectively set up staff reading profiles around the school to inspire and encourage students. Our book trollies located at each site consist of a wide range of



books and graphic novels. We have ensured that the reading ages, complexity, and appropriateness of each book are considered to ensure our students are spoilt for choice when it comes to reading.



Our staff have been committed to ensuring that all students have an opportunity to read. Art teacher Helen, has even dedicated a corner of her classroom to DEAR, allowing students to have a safe space to read.

The Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) initiative has proven to be a valuable component in promoting reading among our students at SVC. By allocating dedicated time for reading, DEAR fosters a culture where reading is not only encouraged but becomes an integral part of the daily routine. This consistent exposure helps our students develop a habit of reading, enhancing their literacy skills over time.

Implementing DEAR at SVC addresses the unique challenges our students face. It provides a structured yet flexible approach that accommodates varying reading levels and interests, allowing students to engage with texts that resonate with them personally. This personalization is crucial in maintaining their interest and motivation.

Moreover, DEAR sessions contribute to improved reading comprehension and fluency. Regular practice enables students to build confidence in their reading abilities, which can translate into better academic performance across subjects. Additionally, the quiet and focused nature of DEAR time offers a calming effect, promoting mental well-being.

In conclusion, the DEAR initiative serves as an effective strategy in SVC to cultivate a love for reading, support literacy development, and enhance overall student well-being. By embedding reading into the weekly schedule, DEAR helps our students discover the joy of reading, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and personal growth.