



Newsletter 23rd June 2023

Laugh, Learn, Live



WELCOME FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to TLC's First Newsletter for all of those who are interested in our amazing school, part of the Melrose community.

I have been very privileged to be Principal of TLC since August 2022 so I'm coming to the end of my first school year and it has been the most incredible experience!

Our children, of whom there are up to 50, aged 11-18 years, all have Education, Health & Care Plans, so have a wide range of special educational needs – and they are the most wonderful human beings any educationalist could wish for to work with.

The learners, often after a history of negative educational experiences, come to us with so many obstacles that they have already overcome but also with lots more to overcome before we can feel happy that they are ready for the big wide world when they leave us.

We pride ourselves in being nurturing and are working towards being a trauma-informed school, which means we focus on developing the children's wellbeing and positive mental health in order that they can be ready to learn. We have high aspirations for ALL our children and our goal is for them to achieve as much educationally as they are capable of, but also to develop their self-esteem, confidence and cultural capital.

I want to highlight the phenomenal TLC team of Teachers, Teaching Assistants, specialists and administrators who work tirelessly to provide the best possible service for the learners and their families every day. I am very proud of them.

If you want to contact me at any time about anything, please do so at h.dyer@tlcthelearningcentre.co.uk

Helen Dyer – Principal

SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF – ALEX



I have worked at TLC for 12 years so it has been quite a journey for me. I started teaching one day a week while my children were very little and over the years have extended my hours to now work full-time. I have always taught English and I love it! Now that my children are teenagers and need me a little less it felt like it was time for me to reclaim my career. I was promoted to Head of English last October and have focused on ensuring that our English curriculum has expanded to meet the needs of all of our learners and, most importantly, to deliver interesting, varied and engaging lessons. Alongside this I have been working with our Year 11 students and their parents and carers to ensure they have a smooth transition into Year 12 when they leave TLC. The focus on our Key Stage 4 students has facilitated my recent move to the SLT Team where I will be leading on the KS4 and KS5 Curriculum whilst continuing to drive forward our English Curriculum. The staff at TLC have been amazingly supportive. Team work definitely makes the dream work here and I am looking forward to continuing to share ideas and work closely with everyone to meet the needs of our amazing cohort.

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2023!!

enquiries@tlcthelearningcentre.co.uk

WOW MOMENTS

Every day, all the Melrose schools identify wow moments for staff and learners. Some of ours this week are:

Children: C – For showing great resilience through trying times

E – Our 'Learner Legend of the week' due to trying hard not to get involved when others in the class have been disengaged, and for working hard

Staff: C – For doing fabulous work with her Form Group 3 around 'Who Am I'

J – For 'going the extra mile' when working with all the children and her relentless drive to improve things for us all

A – For sourcing and securing a defibrillator for TLC – and getting it registered with the national network so that it is on the list for community use (below)



INSPIRING INTERVENTIONS

Our talented TA Caroline has been continuing with her handwriting intervention. We have identified students who need some help with the formation of their lower and upper case letters. Caroline is so patient with our learners and the results she has had have been amazing. One learner in particular has made the most outstanding progress and he is so proud of himself as we are of the wonderful work Caroline is doing.

PARTNER PROFILE

We have been working with **Young Lewisham** for 2 years, having a number of our young people attend for up to three days per week as part of their placement. **Young Lewisham** are a phenomenal charity providing a wide range of opportunities for young people including carpentry, mechanics, expressive arts and other vocational-focused programmes.

Click on their website link here to see what they do:

[YOUNG LEWISHAM PROJECT - Home](#)

EXCITING NEWS!!

Young Lewisham are developing an outreach schools service and TLC is going to be one of their first partners in this initiative – from September '23 we will have tutors from YL in school delivering some of their hands-on, practical programmes, which will lead to OCN Qualifications – great for those learners who are more vocational.



OUR GCSE STUDENTS ESCAPE!!

Year 11 attended a trip to a local Escape Room on Thursday then had lunch in Nandos. This was to mark the end of their GCSE's and celebrate how well they have done. One of our Year 11 students Oliver is going to tell us how his day was:

'The Escape Room was based on World War 2. We had to escape 3 rooms in total where the goal was to turn on a Spitfire plane. The first task was to open the lockers and to get the key to open the locker. We had to put our hands down a grate and use the key to open a puzzle, that revealed another puzzle in a box. We had to find and use a 3 digit code which we got from some medals, belt buckles and buttons which revealed the code. From some pictures on the other side of the room we solved a puzzle using directional locks, the ways the planes were facing opened the box. The final door revealed the final puzzle which turned on the spitfire. We escaped in 59 minutes and 29 seconds with just 31 seconds to spare.'

Lots of fun was had by everyone – and the Nandos was delicious! Alfie Below celebrating his escape 😊



