



SPRING 2021

THE BEECHES

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, which we hope will inform and update you on all of the amazing things our young people and staff have been up to, both in the homes and school.

Our aim is to make a difference to young people's lives and to ensure their voices are heard.

It's been a very busy few months and our Operations Manager, Rebecca, has been doing a fantastic job of keeping everything running in tip top shape!

The team are constantly working hard to develop the homes and school in order to continue to deliver the highest quality care, and we've already seen positive improvements amongst staff and young people.

INDEPENDENT PROVISIONS

Our independent living services are for those aged 16-25 and support a variety of young people with different needs. We currently have 9 provisions (Bluebell, Dogsthorpe Grove, Tollgate, Woodhurst, Peterhouse, Fulbridge, Oxney, Welland and Hazlewood). We assist 9 young people with acquiring new skills and helping them learn how to live independently.

Some of the children who live in our homes will go to our school, and some go to a different local school or will be supported to attend college and work placements. This is an area we are really excited to explore and develop to ensure our young people are supported in achieving their full potential. One of these provisions is on the way to becoming Ofsted registered whilst our remaining 8 supported living provisions continue to go from strength to strength, with good news coming in relation to planning for CQC. Watch this space!

REGISTERED PROVISIONS

We currently have 3 registered children's homes: The Willows, The Maples and The Cedars.

They have all have been adapted to create home environments for the care of children and young people with learning disabilities and associated challenging behaviour.

We are excited to announce that our brand new children's home, Magnolia House (in Ealing, London) is currently going through Ofsted registration and will be opening this Summer. We look forward to welcoming new young people then, so stay tuned.

Staff and young people have certainly been keeping busy, and look forward to engaging in even more activities when lockdown eases. Find out more about what they've been up to below.

THE WILLOWS



At The Beeches we encourage everyone to build hobbies and enjoy extracurricular activities, which are proven to encourage teamwork, build confidence and boost self-esteem.

We aim to provide children with a safe and homely environment, so all the children have decorated their rooms and have added their unique twist around the house.

At The Willows, our young people have also been expressing their originality through a variety of different arts and crafts activities in the home. This has included drawing, slime making, and foot painting - which was very messy but a lot of fun! They have also produced some fantastic tie-dye creations including a t-shirt and hoodie.



On April Fool's Day, mischief was afoot at The Willows. One young person decided that after being caught out by staff who told him that electrical devices such as games consoles and tablets don't work on 1st April, decided to embrace the spirit of April Fool's Day by filling his peers' shoes with shredded paper. It was a bit of harmless fun and everyone had a good laugh afterwards!



THE MAPLES

Staff and young people at The Maples were all excited about what the new year would bring, so decided to ring in 2021 with a party. They started things off with a film, then the party kicked off. They had a fantastic evening with a feast of treats - from sausage rolls, Chinese and Indian appetisers, and cake - just to name a few! Everyone had a lovely evening and wished each other a Happy New Year.



Next was Shrove Tuesday, where staff and young people all cooked their own pancakes with their choice of delicious toppings. Thankfully there were no disasters and all pancakes safely made their way to the plates! They had so much fun choosing fruit, lots of different sauces and ice cream for their toppings - it was a lovely treat for all.



Now that Spring has arrived, The Maples gang have been out and about the last couple of weeks, with Skegness, Heacham and Hunstanton already explored. Walks along the beach meant that their daily recommended 10,000 steps were met, and of course ice cream and a stick of rock were enjoyed by all. Then naturally a game of yellow car no return was played on the journey home. It was a fun day for all.



THE CEDARS



Young people at The Cedars have been busy letting their creative juices flow with a variety of cooking, art and sports.

OO has made this positive 'bee happy' cake entirely from scratch. He spent an entire morning planning and preparing the cake, and put a lot of thought into the message he wanted to express with his cooking. OO said: *"I really enjoy baking and I wanted to make everyone happy with my cake, I'm really pleased with how it came out"*. He made everything himself, and only needed a small amount of support in completing this wonderful creation. Do we have a future Great British Bake-off champion on our hands?



AB created this amazing diamond art piece, which she enjoys doing for relaxation. AB loves doing arts and crafts and spends a lot of time engaging in scrapbooking and making cards. AB is extremely talented and really enjoys encouraging her peers to get involved, creating a really relaxed and positive environment. Congratulations on this work of art!



Meanwhile, The Cedars team have been busy creating a safe and interactive games room for everyone to enjoy. We've just received a new table tennis table, and look forward to starting lessons with our new Sports Coach, Sanket. There is also a large smart TV where young people can play games and watch films, as well as a chillout zone with comfortable bean bags where residents can relax and gather their thoughts.

THE SCHOOL

We are delighted to see all of our students continue to flourish with the well-rounded and personalised curriculum on offer. Alongside the expected subjects of English, Maths, PHSE and Science, our students were able to access a range of complimentary subjects and activities such as Food Technology, Design, and Life Skills.

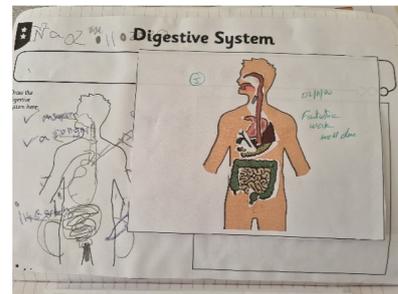
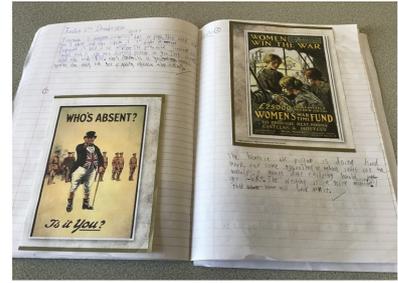
Our most recent and exciting achievement was receiving a letter from The Queen's Lady in Waiting! She kindly answered some questions from a letter we wrote to The Queen as part of an Azdan lesson where the students were practising formal and informal language.

In Enterprise, students made dog biscuits from scratch then worked out how much they could sell them for, with the proceeds going to a chosen charity. To date the children have raised £68 for charity through different activities!

We are extremely proud of the amazing artwork they have produced, with students showing their creativity through paintings, canvas drawing, tie-dye cushion stitching and potato printing.

In Science, students study a variety of topics and conduct multiple experiments to prove theories. For example in one lesson they looked at tooth decay where they tested the effect of different liquids using boiled eggs with shells on to represent tooth enamel. They really enjoyed this!

Food Technology is another favourite, with students whipping up a number of culinary delights. Jamie Oliver watch out!



NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTORS

It's been an extremely busy but productive year so far. We have all faced challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however we have remained resilient and have robust safeguarding measures and practices in place within all our homes and schools, and will continue to deliver the same standard of high quality support to all your young people in our care.

We are proud of our team who have all come together as one united front, showing the utmost dedication and commitment to the young people that we support in often very challenging circumstances, especially in recent times.

We have made significant investments in our homes and school in order to continue improving our service and deliver a high quality level of care. We also recently introduced ClearCare which will allow us to more efficiently manage and store all data and reports, as well as safeguard against poor practice through improved monitoring.

We have also had a recent recruitment drive, welcoming new energetic staff at all levels within the business who will help to develop the services we provide. We have also sourced the services of a Psychologist to work with the residents and staff team. All employees are passionate about ensuring all our residents reach their potential goal and are safe and happy in their homes.

We look forward to continuing to build relationships with you, and welcome your young people into our services.