

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER

### WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER 2022 NEWSLETTER!

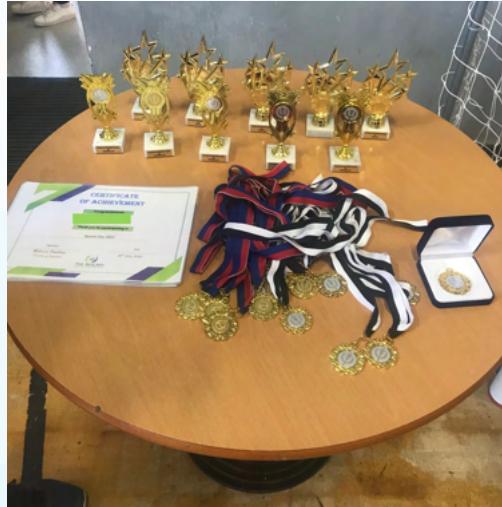
School's out for Summer! We kicked off the season in style with a garden party to celebrate The Platinum Jubilee, where residents across our homes came together to enjoy games, music, dancing, and a large spread of party food.

We also celebrated the opening of Magnolia House, our newest children's care home in Ealing which was officially opened by MP James Murray and Cllr Dr Aysha Raza. The event was a huge success with colleagues from local authorities, residents from the local neighbourhood, and team members all joining together on this special occasion.

The sun's out and so are our young people! They have enjoyed some fun outdoor activities including BBQs, and trips to the beach and theme parks. We've organised holidays for our residents with some booked to go camping and climb Snowdon, and others going on beach holidays or city breaks. They are all really excited and looking forward to it.

Pupils at The Beeches Independent Special School continue to work hard and progress in both their academic and life skills. It was a bittersweet ending to term as we said goodbye to some of our students who are off to college in September, however we had an amazing graduation ceremony to see them off, and we couldn't be prouder of everything they have achieved. We wish them the very best of the luck for the future!

We are very grateful to our amazing team and the hard work they put in to ensuring our young people always receive the best care that they are entitled to, so thank you everyone. Ofsted inspections have now begun and we're delighted that both homes that have been inspected so far (The Maples and The Willows) have been rated "good." Well done all!



## THE CEDARS

The Cedars residents have enjoyed a number of outings over the last few months including trips to the funfair, cinema, Alton Towers, Fantasy Island, Flip Out, and the circus where they watched acrobats, magic tricks and clown acts.

Some were lucky enough to watch the final POSH matches of the season, as well as Banger Racing at Kings Lynn.

They have also been getting plenty of fresh air in the outdoors with walks in Skegness and on the beach, as well as visits to the local farm where they got to meet their favourite animals!

Some of our residents have really gotten into baking, trialling different recipes for homemade biscuits, cupcakes, brownies, and chocolate cake.

This was balanced out by preparing some healthier dishes which they have enjoyed eating outside in the sunshine on the home's brand new garden furniture.

Others have also shown off their musical skills by practising on the keyboard, and their arts and crafts skills by making their own pink, blue, and purple tie-dye t-shirts.

We are also really proud of our young people who have shown an eagerness to support local charities including donating their old clothing to The Fire Fighters Charity recycling bank at Stanground Community Fire Station. Well done all!



## THE MAPLES

Residents at The Maples have been extremely active over the last few months, with go-karting, crazy golf adventures at Glo Golf, and lots of bouncing at Inflata Nation!

Other day outs have included trips to the funfair, Wicksteed Park, and West Midland Safari Park where everyone had a great time driving around looking at all the different animals. They all had a big laugh when one cheeky giraffe poked its head through their car window!

The Maples team have also been making the most of the good weather by going for picnics and long walks in the woods, country parks, and along the coast, as well as to Ferry Meadows, Southey Woods, Crown Lakes, Hunstanton and Heacham - to name a few! It has been heartwarming to see the camaraderie and support they have shown one another by holding hands whilst out on walks.

Our young people have been learning about the importance of exercise and nutrition, and have enjoyed their new routine of going hand cycling and swimming once to twice a week.

They have also been learning about different countries and cultures, including their recent Spanish-themed night where they all helped to prepare (and then devour) arroz con pollo. ¡Buen Provecho!



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## THE WILLOWS

Following their successful visit to local diversity club Culture Community, residents at The Willows have continued to broaden their knowledge and understanding of different cultures. They have started holding themed nights where they get the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about different parts of the world, as well as sample local cuisines from that region. Their latest virtual trips have included China and America!

The team have been busy looking at ways to increase their fitness and get as many steps in as possible this Summer. They have all started going cycling every Wednesday where they complete several miles together per session, as well as going out on regular dog walks.

Our young people were all very eager to help prepare for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations hosted at The Willows, helping to put the gazebos up and decorate them with union jack balloons, bunting, and flags. Residents from The Cedars and Maples were all invited to come along so everyone had lots of fun sharing this special occasion as big group of friends. Each young person had the opportunity to select and prepare food which was transformed into an impressive (and yummy) spread! After lots of food and treats, the team relaxed by listening to music and playing games, then finished the day off with a friendly football match. It truly was a fantastic day had by all!



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## MAGNOLIA HOUSE

We're delighted that Magnolia House, our newest care home for children and young people with emotional behavioural difficulties is now open! We held an event in May to celebrate, and were honoured that James Murray, MP for Ealing North and Cllr Dr Aysha Raza, Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequality both attended to officially open the new home (as well as take a couple of selfies)! We were overwhelmed with the positive feedback from attendees about the warmth and unity of our team, as well as about the quality of our home and the furnishings.

We're really pleased that our residents are settling in well, and have already taken part in a number of exciting activities including an adrenaline-pumped experience at The Tottenham Hotspur Dare Skywalk. One thrill-seeking resident showcased his bravery by strapping himself in and embarking on the exhilarating journey to the stadium's iconic golden cockerel via a clear glass walkway 46.8 metres above the pitch, whilst experiencing 360 views of the London skyline.

He also had his first experience of a football match by watching Soccer Aid live at London Stadium. The trip was organised to support his social interaction, as well as build his self-esteem and confidence. He had a great time with his RCW and we are delighted that they have built up such an amazing relationship in a short space of time.

Residents have also been making the most of the good weather by enjoying lots of time outdoors (loaded with plenty of sunscreen and water!) including a workout in their local park.



## SUPPORTED LIVING

Young people in our supported living homes celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a special day out to Wicksteed Park for a picnic and fun on the rides. Although the weather wasn't great (or rather some may say it was keeping with British tradition!) they didn't stop smiling, and proudly held their flag in honour of this momentous occasion. Other highlights on the day included meeting some new furry friends in the park, and unfortunately the team believe they may have just missed the Queen as they caught sight of a bright pink Lamborghini parked out front which could only have belonged to Her Majesty!

They have enjoyed several other activities over the past few of months, including BBQ get-togethers, and visits to Thorpe Park and Ferry Meadows.

We've also celebrated three of our young people's birthdays and have thrown parties for them to celebrate with their peers. One young person celebrated his 21st in real style on the golf course. He went to Cold Ashby Golf Course armed with his new golf shirt and glove, and practiced hitting a few balls at the driving range before playing a full 18-hole round. He had a great time and said he would like to play again soon!

We encourage all of our young people to follow their passions and hobbies. One young person is getting really good at bowling which he enjoys doing as a regular activity, and even recently won a competition! Keep up the good work guys!



## **THE BEECHES INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOL**

Pupils at The Beeches Independent Special School have worked extremely hard over the last few months and finished off the academic year with plenty of activities and giggles at Sports Day, where they participated in a football match, egg and spoon race, relay race, dodgeball, and target games. All participants were awarded with trophies, medals and certificates.



This term they have also been on several group outings including to Central Park and Hunstanton where they had lots of fun on the beach collecting shells, finding crabs and jellyfish, writing their names in the sand, playing frisbee, and making sandcastles. They also had a successful trip to the arcade winning lots of different prizes on the 2p machines! They finished the day off with fish and chips followed by a visit to the funfair where they went on all the rides. There were smiles and laughs all day long!



They also went to Railworld Wildlife Haven where they went on a nature walk around the lake, and got to see and learn about different trains and model railways. One young person had a nice conversation with the man that runs the train station and after being informed that Railworld is run by volunteers, expressed that he would like to be a volunteer and to be in charge of the trains at Railworld when he leaves school.



*Summer*





The post 16 group have had an excellent year progressing with their academic studies, as well as going out and about visiting college and other places of interest. As part of their careers programme, they went to see several different colleges including Stamford College where some of the students were very interested in the Mechanics department, and Peterborough College where they enjoyed exploring the music studio. The group have also been on trips to Moulton College where they admired the huge equestrian centre, and in Cambridge Regional College they had a great time as they were allowed to try on some of the wigs and costumes from the art department! In Stamford Arts Centre they also learnt about the various jobs that are available there.

We are so proud of three of our students who have obtained college placements to start in September, with LA studying hairdressing at City College, and SK and JF due to start a course at regional college in September. To celebrate, they went on a trip to Thorpe Park where they had a fun time going on all the rides, followed by a meal at Harvester on the way home. The students were all very appreciative of the trips and visits they have been on, and all the experiences they have gained.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope you've enjoy reading about all the lovely things we have been up to, and wish you a very happy and enjoyable summer!

