



EAST SILC
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Newsletter

East SILC John Jamieson



CLASS ACTIVITIES

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REMINDER

**School reopens on the
Wednesday 3rd of September 2025**
Please see the back of the
Newsletter for important dates



As we reach the close of another amazing school year at the East SILC, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on some successes this term.

This year marked the first time learners from Roger Cannon have taken GCSEs in mathematics and English Language, demonstrating not only exceptional progress but real grit and determination, often working very far out of their comfort zones to access and take the exams. We look forward to celebrating their results in August.

The East SILC hosted the Spectrum music festival, the first ever SEND friendly festival in Leeds in June 2025. There was an amazing line up of bands/artists, food vans and merchandise with a fantastic turn out of around 300 festival goers, including plenty of East SILC learners and families as well as other young people and adults with SEN. Spectrum would not have happened without the tireless work of East SILC staff and the generous sponsors. Inspired by the success of Spectrum the team are planning more events as well making Spectrum an annual event.

Another highlight was Prom, held at Thorpe Park Hotel. Seventy-five learners from years 11-14 attended and it was truly magnificent evening of sharp dressing, busting moves and above all togetherness.

East SILC Employment Village at John Jamieson was officially opened on 27th June 2025 to provide learners with work experience opportunities in the café, shop and garden and for meaningful practical play and social skills development.

We have been overwhelmed by the support of the East SILC community, particularly the generosity of our parents/carers in our summer fairs which have raised over £2000! The money will go towards resources and equipment to benefit our learners.

Sadly, we lost a key member of our John Jamieson community, Ans Butt from 16+4. Ans was a loving young man who loved school and the people around him. His smile would light up any room and his love for WWE was known all around school. Our love goes to Ans' family and everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Ans.



As we look forward to the summer break, I want to wish our learners, families and staff a safe, restful and happy holiday. We look forward to welcoming learners back from 3rd September 2025, ready for another year of exceptional learning and experiences.



July 2025

Message from Head of School

We have had a busy Summer term at John Jamieson School which has been filled with remarkable achievements and exceptional events, showcasing the best of our community. Held on 6th June at Project House, our first-ever Music Festival 'Spectrum' attracted over 300 attendees. We're excited to plan to host another next year, alongside a dance festival.

On 20th June, we proudly unveiled our on-site 'Employment Village,' featuring a café, shop, and gardening space, all of which has been created with our learners. Learners from September will be able to access these spaces as part of the curriculum. We had a range of visitors come to the opening, including Julie Longworth, the director of Education for Leeds, and several local councillors, who were able to see learners' dances, singers and the 16+ Bridge learner band as part of the celebration. Also on 20th June, we held our first on-site Careers Fair which supported parents and learners with valuable insights for current and future opportunities. Again, we plan to make this an annual event.

On 4th July, our Summer Fair raised over £1,700 to support school activities. It was a windy day but a joy to be part of, as ever. We had a wide range of stalls, and I think everyone that came had a great time. A big thank you to everyone who attended! That night was the Prom for our year 11-14 learners, and we had a spectacular evening.

Each class has excelled this term, achieving milestones and creating inspiring projects, as can be seen in this newsletter. It is always good to read of what our learners are capable of.

On 10th July, we'll honour our Year 14 leavers at the assembly. We wish them all success, thank them for being part of our community and hope to see them soon.

Finally, a big thank you to all the parents and carers for all your support throughout the year. I hope everybody has a restful break and we will see everyone ready for action in September.

Jamie Darby



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FireFlies

Fireflies have enjoyed learning through our topic dinosaurs this term. Fireflies have had opportunities to walk to the coop and the library to strengthen their preparation for adulthood skills whilst out on the community. This term we have enjoyed working as a team during outdoor learning sessions. We have been part of a whole school project of designing the gardens in our employment park. Well done Fireflies, we are proud of you!-Lucy

16+1

We are delighted that our post 16+1 learners have successfully completed their Trinity Arts Award qualifications! These enthusiastic learners have had a fantastic time in their art classes, developing their creativity, curiosity, confidence, and communication skills.

The Arts Award Discover and Explore programmes inspire young people to engage with various art forms and artists. As they navigate through their artistic journeys, they document their achievements, sharing their experiences with others. This process not only enhances their creativity but also builds confidence and knowledge, ultimately leading to a recognised qualification. We are incredibly proud of their success!



Sailing at Otley Sailing Club

This term, our learners in Post 16 have been actively participating in sailing sessions at Otley Sailing Club. They have been working diligently towards achieving various awards, which highlights their commitment and enthusiasm for the sport.



The experience has been both fun and enjoyable, providing an excellent opportunity for teamwork and collaboration. Together, our learners have successfully navigated around the lake, enhancing their sailing skills and building lasting memories.

We are proud of their achievements and look forward to seeing their continued progress in the future.



Martins House Hospice

Just to say thanks to staff who sponsored me for this truly well deserving cause. In total I raised £500

From friends and the staff who sponsored. It was great to be part of learner SE team. Was a very wet day and lots of hill walking

HS1

HS1 have had a lovely summer term. The class have thoroughly enjoyed exploring a range of exciting topics. In science, we have been learning all about the weather from sunshine to storms! We have also enjoyed reading and making our own weather forecasts alongside this.



In maths, we have been focussing on shape using everything from building blocks to looking for shapes around the classroom. Our art lessons took us through a vibrant journey into African art, where we explored patterns and colours and even created our own tribal masks and explored weaving. It has been a term full of creativity, curiosity and lots of learning!

Dragonflies

Learners from Dragonflies, High School 4 and 16+4 classes have been enjoying a welcome cool down at Planet Ice this term. Sharing trips together and meeting new peers along the way. It has been amazing to see the positive and happy faces of all involved in busting some moves on the ice.



HS5

In HS5 this term we have been exploring nature and making new friends.



Caterpillars

This term Caterpillars have enjoyed looking at the topics 'Dinosaurs' and 'Fly away with me.' We have also enjoyed the lovely weather this term through forest fun learning, trips to the park and the Arium and outdoor learning.





16+4

This term 16+4 have been enjoying the sun and activities around school. They are also performing with Northern Ballet and have been working closely with Leeds Art Gallery.



16+4 have enjoyed mixing with other classes to do water play, social cafe with a sensory twist and Yamsen music.

We worked hard to prepare for the careers fair and summer fair where we made badges with individual prints on the back.



HS7

This term, HS7 have enjoyed participating in a lot of outdoor learning. They have worked well as a team in our employment city to ensure it was ready for the grand opening. For the summer fair, the learners made beautiful hanging baskets which went down a storm across school. They advertised the baskets via posters and took lots of preorders from staff. They even managed to sell out during the summer fair. Well done on a great term, HS7!



Bumblebees

Bumblebees have been learning how to be safe in the community, on transport and busses. We've been to swimming pools, the Arium garden centre, Thorner park and Chapel Allerton library. We have planted potatoes in the employment village and role playing being potato farmers talking walks to check on them, water them and pull up any weeds.



Ladybirds

Ladybirds have enjoyed weekly trips to the park exploring safe climbing and interactive equipment. This has supported our independence skills: preparing for a bus journey, dressing, undressing, visiting new environments and sitting independently for a bus journey. We have also loved exploring water in many forms especially in the warm weather.



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HS2

This term HS2 have enjoyed PhysCap twice per week during the warmer, sunny days! The HS2 learners have been super engaged with prepping for both the enterprise day and the summer fair.

Our class loved the summer fair and all of the amazing stalls JJ had to offer.

HS2 have loved the recent stories for English and have completed some amazing work! In science, they have enjoyed learning all about different types of weather and the seasons – this has been done through sensory play, BUCKET sessions, and more formal learning.

Some of our class have been going swimming and have all made such good progress whilst having such a lovely time.

Well done HS2!!

16+2

16+2 have been taking part in a reading buddy system and have enjoyed reading in the redzone in the lovely weather, they have made excellent progress whilst having lots of fun.



HS4 and HS6

HS4 and HS6 have enjoyed lots of time outdoors this summer in our outdoor area, in the Physcap outdoor playground and the new employment park gardens. We've worked hard on our physio targets and our learning behaviours which have really improved since the beginning of the year. However, this term we have particularly enjoyed throwing ourselves into making money for school at both the school fair and during Employment City day.

The learners made rainbow ribbon hoops and ribbon balloons, which have been very popular with our sensory learners. Over the 2 days we managed to make a £140 profit. Fantastic work HS4 & HS6.



16+3

16+3 have been working hard making the outdoor redzone a nice area for learners to relax, learn and regulate. Learners helped paint, sand wood and plant flowers.



HS4

HS4 went on a trip with Dragonflies class and 16+4 to Planet Ice. We enjoyed going round the ice, listening to the music and looking at the lights. We had so much fun!



Lotherton Hall – 16+2 Work experience

This Academic year some of the learners in 16+ have been to Lotherton Hall for work experience.

Every Monday, they have been carrying out gardening work and have been a part of the team to maintain and upkeep the of the grounds. The learners have experienced a multiple of jobs and developed their skills in laying gravel, bark, weeding, collecting leaves and much more.

It has also been a pleasure not only to see their working skills develop but also to see their social skills of communicating with one another especially on a lunchtime break just like they'll experience in the wider world.

As a reward for their hard work, the learners were treated to a "Deer Tour" at Lotherton Hall after all their hard work where Teddy the Stag and another 72 Deer were fed by the staff. The learners loved the bumpy tractor ride and trailer and "had to hold on for deer life..."



HS3

This year in HS3 we have all worked extremely hard in all areas of our curriculum. As seen in the wonderful pictures we have experienced a fun and varied curriculum. Particular highlights have been a trip to South Leeds Stadium to take part in an adapted cycling event and also our whole school Eid celebration where some learners had the opportunity to have henna tattoos.

HS8

HS8 have had an exciting half term this Summer. We harvested our potatoes and have grown over 4kg of potatoes, which we have cooked and turned into a range of potato snacks, including crisps and chips!

We had a wonderful time exploring the summer fair and running our Minecraft themed stall, but we also supported with escorting parents down to the fair and by baking some delicious shortbreads for the cake stall. As well as all our exciting extra-curricular activities, we have worked very hard on our academic skills, putting in amazing effort for our maths coursework, as well as reading a range of new texts and expanding our phonics and comprehension skills.



Grasshoppers

This term Grasshoppers have made the most of the sunshine and taken our learning outside.

We discovered dinosaur fossils in science, planted seeds, painted with ice, and enjoyed trips to the park. The learners have also especially enjoyed Makaton choir and music with Joanna from Artforms. 'I am the Musicman' has become a class favourite. Grasshoppers have worked incredibly hard this year, bringing so many smiles along the way. Thank you!



Fireflies

This summer term Fireflies have focussed on preparation for adulthood skills. We have enjoyed trips to the library, the local Coop, Temple Newsam farm, The Great Yorkshire Show, and took part in the M&S archive project. Some of us took part in the summer YAMSEN concert. Well done Fireflies you are all amazing!

Lucy and the fireflies team.



Compass



16+1 potato harvest

16 I have successfully harvested their potato crop this term as part of the grow your own project.

After carefully watering the plants over a period of several months the learners have reaped their reward and in the process learnt more about the process of farm to plate in the growth and production cycle of our staple crops. Well done to all concerned and the staff supporting them. A special shout out goes to Connor Scholefield for maintaining the watering rota!

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Butterflies

What a have had the best half term in Butterflies! Learners have all been super engaged and productive. We have done so much from learning about shapes, numbers, stories, arts and crafts and I think Butterflies favourite lesson has definitely been food tech. The learners have really taken to this, enjoying all the cutting, rolling, sprinkling of ingredients and of course the eating! Butterflies have made our own shortbread, pizzas, vegetable curry, cupcakes and pastry rolls! We even entered the Summer Fair Bake Off and came second (with the help of the staff of course). It has been the best half term!

Thanks,



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Summer Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES

Please make sure to check the East SILC website for key dates and upcoming events
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If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service please contact

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Leeds Community Healthcare 
 NHS Trust



Monday 1st September Training Day
 Tuesday 2nd September..... Training Day
 Wednesday 3rd September..... Return to school
 Friday 24th October Breaking for half term
 Monday 3rd November Reopen after half term
 Monday 1st December..... Training Day
 Friday 19th December Close for Holiday
 Monday 21st July Training Day
 Tuesday 22nd July..... Training Day

