



Summer Newsletter

East SILC Roger Cannon School

July 2026

MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Executive Principal

As we come to the end of another successful year at East SILC Roger Cannon, we are delighted to share this edition of our summer newsletter, celebrating the many achievements, experiences and milestones our learners have enjoyed throughout the year. From GCSE and accreditation successes to residential visits, sporting events, creative arts projects and Preparation for Adulthood activities, our learners have continued to impress us with their resilience, determination and enthusiasm.

We are also incredibly proud of our recent **Ofsted report**, which recognises the strength of our provision and the positive experiences of our learners. We are thrilled that the dedication, care and commitment shown by our staff every day has been recognised, reflecting the exceptional work that takes place across East SILC to support learners to achieve their very best.

As we celebrate the achievements of this year, we would also like to wish our Year 11 learners every success as they move on to the next stage of their journey. We are immensely proud of all they have accomplished and know they have bright futures ahead of them.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Working in partnership with our families is at the heart of everything we do and helps make East SILC such a positive and supportive community. We hope you enjoy reading about the many highlights from the year and wish you and your families a safe, happy and

Message from the Head of School

As we wrap up another school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the many achievements and experiences that have shaped the year at Roger Cannon. Our learners have continued to impress us with their resilience, determination and enthusiasm, both in the classroom and beyond. A particular highlight has been the commitment shown by our Year 11 learners throughout the GCSE examination period. We are incredibly proud of the maturity and perseverance they demonstrated, and we look forward to celebrating their achievements when the results are released later in the year. Alongside GCSEs, many of our learners have also worked towards Entry Level qualifications, unit awards and wider accreditation, providing further opportunities to recognise their success and personal development.

This term has also provided many memorable experiences that have enriched our curriculum and supported our Preparation for Adulthood offer. Our residential visit was a fantastic success, giving learners opportunities to develop independence, teamwork and confidence whilst creating lasting memories with their peers. I would like to extend a special thank you to the staff who gave up their time to make this opportunity possible. Residential visits require a huge amount of planning, commitment and dedication, and the positive impact they have on our learners is invaluable. We were also delighted to welcome Bradley Riches to Roger Cannon. Bradley, best known for his roles in *Heartstopper* and *Emmerdale*, shared his inspiring journey as an autistic actor and author. Learners listened with great interest as he spoke about finding his voice through theatre after being non-speaking until the age of ten, and his message of perseverance, self-belief and celebrating individuality resonated strongly with both pupils and staff. Experiences such as these help broaden aspirations and show our learners what is possible when they pursue their ambitions.

We are especially proud of our Year 11 leavers, whose positive attitudes and contribution to school life have left a lasting impression on staff and younger learners alike. This summer we also say farewell to Callum Convy and Janet Vinci. Callum will be leaving Roger Cannon to pursue a new opportunity, whilst Janet will be joining the new 16+ provision at SHINE. Both have made a significant contribution to the life of the school and have supported countless learners during their time with us. We thank them for everything they have done and wish them every success in their future roles. Finally, I would like to thank all of our learners, parents, carers and staff for their continued support throughout the year. It is a privilege to be part of such a dedicated and supportive school community. Wishing you and your families a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

Governor's Update

The Summer term has been busy for Governors as well as staff with the anticipated visit from the Ofsted Inspectors at the beginning of June. Four members off the governing board met with Ofsted inspectors on the second day of the visit to discuss their role in oversight of the school from the curriculum, through safeguarding and attendance to the state of the buildings. We are very pleased with the Ofsted report recognising the hard work of all staff in striving for the happiness, wellbeing and best outcomes for all learners.

In early May, three governors spent the whole day visiting across the school sites to assess implementation of item 2.1 of the school improvement plan (SIP): *Implement the pathway model across the SILC to ensure that all learners are accessing stage appropriate curriculum and learning*. They began the day meeting with Becky Parker (curriculum lead) and Jamie Darby (head of school at John Jamieson) to gain a more detailed understanding of the pathway approach and then toured classrooms on the John Jamieson, Jack Clark and Roger Cannon sites to meet teachers and observe classes putting the four pathway streams, Engage, Encounter, Enrich and Elevate, into action. The governors were impressed with how staff had embraced the pathways, felt supported in delivering them and how they recognised a benefit in pupils' ability to focus and learn in lessons.

A subsequent visit by 3 governors later in May looked at SIP 3.3 *Implement benchmarked parent/carers survey to gather evidence- informed feedback and strengthen home-school partnership*, reviewing the 129 responses received to the recent parent survey and discussing engagement between the school and parents. Other regular school visits reviewed Safeguarding procedures and the health and safety requirements of the buildings, with the termly meetings of the Curriculum and Welfare (CAWC) and Finance, Health and Safety committees meeting before the final full governing board of the year.

It is not all hard work. Governors enjoyed joining a great evening of music and entertainment at Spectrum Festival on June 12th and are looking forward to participating in the end of term activities, including the "Together We Groove" dance festival at The Bridge on July 8th.

RC1 Swimming

This term we have continued with our swimming lessons in RC1. Over the last couple of weeks, the main theme within the swimming lesson was water safety and how the learners could keep themselves safe if they ever got into danger while in water. The learners practice their starfish floats across the pool. As well as learning the difference about the flags they would see at the seaside telling us if the sea was safe for them to swim in.

PFA

Within PFA this term the learners have covered two topics one around emergency and highlight what situations class as an emergency and who help us if we need help in an emergency. Some lessons the learners become the emergency service workers, first they become firefighters and used water spray bottles to put out 'fires'. The next lesson they were all great first aiders applying bandages to each other.

The next topic was in the kitchen; we learnt what is a kitchen and the different appliances within a kitchen. The learners took part in using these different appliances from making pot noodle's by using a kettle and beans on toast using a microwave and toaster.

The learners have also been developing these skills during food tech and completing task independently such as making their own sandwiches in the design of crabs. Create their own pizza wraps and choosing the topping they would like.



Music workshop

On Tuesday 30th June we welcomed Leeds Song Interactive Recitals into our class, and they told us a great story through singing and musical instruments as well as sensory items. The learners showed great engagement throughout the session and even helped with making parts of the story song up. They helped Andy chose a method of how to unlock the giant gate he needed to pass as well picking fruit to distract the birds.



RC4

RC4 have had a lovely last term. Everyone has tried their best to finish on a high. We have been on lots of PFA trips in and around the community as well as joining on the 'come outside' walks at Roundhay Park. As every member of RC4 finishes are departs for their new schools, I wish each one of them the best of luck with their new adventure.



RC2

Preparation for Adulthood (PfA)

Throughout the term, RC2 have enjoyed participating in a wide range of activities. Learners particularly enjoyed their weekly trips to The Kids Play soft play centre, where they had opportunities to socialise and develop positive relationships with their peers.



Throughout the term, RC2 learners have also developed their road safety awareness and their understanding of interacting safely with familiar adults and strangers. They have applied these skills during walks to the local shop, where they selected items for the social café and interacted positively with members of the public. Learners have also demonstrated these skills during visits to the local park.



In Preparation for Adulthood (PfA), learners have continued to develop their cooking skills. They have independently prepared a variety of foods using different kitchen appliances, demonstrating increasing confidence and independence.



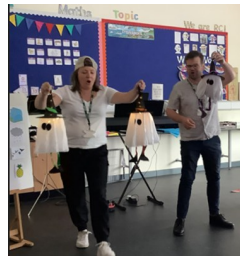
Bradley Riches Visit

Some learners enjoyed meeting Bradley Riches during his visit to school. They had the opportunity to receive a copy of his book, collect an autograph, take photographs, and ask him questions about his experiences.



Music Workshop

RC1 and RC2 also engaged in a music workshop with Leeds Song Interactive Recitals. In the workshop they told us a story through singing and musical instruments as well as sensory items. The learners showed great engagement throughout the session and even helped with making parts of the story song up.



RC3

We cannot believe that we are already at the end of the year in RC3! What a year we have had full of laughter, fun and learning! This term we have been reading 'The Queens Nose'. The learners took part in a treasure hunt around school where they found their very own 50p. This however, was not just any 50p, as it had the picture of a rabbit on it. Following this, the learners then wrote their own instructions to create their own treasure hunts. The learners had lots of fun!



Art has been a popular subject this term as we have focused on Mosaics. The learners began by exploring different materials and then made their own out of different materials. RC3 also went to a local garden to see some examples of Mosaics in the local community. The learners enjoyed relating this to their learning in class. I have had an amazing time teaching in RC3 this year! Have a wonderful summer!



East SILC Roger Cannon

RC5

RC5 have had a brilliant year developing their skills through lessons, creating and building friendships and working as a team. Students have all been incredibly hardworking throughout the year and have all earned lots of stamps every week. We have also been working hard to develop conversational skills and turn taking skills which students have all shown massive improvements with across the whole year. Social cafe and show and tell have been opportunities for students to showcase their skills and enjoy getting to know each other really well. We have had the chance to do lots of trips out this year to access the local community and learn more about travelling with bus passes and using money in real life situations. Some places we have visited include the art gallery, Leeds city museum and Kirkgate market! Students are all very excited to earn their reward trip in the final week of term where we will be going bowling and to McDonalds! Thank you, Mary .



RC6

RC6 have had a fantastic year and have worked incredibly well together, showing kindness, teamwork and resilience in all that they do. We have enjoyed many exciting school trips, including visits to local parks, the cat café, bowling, Temple Newsam Farm and the cinema. These experiences have helped us to develop our social skills, confidence and independence while creating lots of happy memories together.

This term, we also said goodbye to our trainee teacher, Miss Stott, who has been a valued member of our class since January. We would like to thank her for all of her support, dedication and care, and we wish her every success in her future teaching career.

As we reach the end of the year, we are incredibly proud of all our learners and the progress they have made. We wish them all the very best as they continue their learning journey through Roger Cannon and beyond. Well done, RC6!



RC7

This term in RC7 we have been exploring a variety of communication methods in PFA. We have also been studying our addresses to ensure we know these by memory.

We have enjoyed applying communication methods and having lots of time outdoors, enjoying the sunshine and demonstrating some amazing road safety skills. Well done!



This term in Drama we have been exploring Trestle Masks, pupils have had lots of fun exploring the use of non-verbal drama skills and improvised scenarios. Well done KS3! At Roger Cannon pupils in KS4 have been working exceptionally hard to achieve their arts award qualifications. We are delighted to say all have passed! Well done!



East SILC Roger Cannon

RC8

Class 8 have enjoyed a number of PfA trips during the summer term. They have demonstrated growing independence when crossing the road and catching public buses. Learners have had the opportunity to speak with shop keepers and market traders to find out about products and locations. Learners in Year 11 have considered their next steps and have spent time in groups with other leavers. Whilst learners in Year 10 have had a careers afternoon and careers interviews to encourage them to consider their future. Overall, Class 8 have had a very busy and successful academic year. Well done to all for amazing progress!



RC9

This term, our class has been developing important life skills through a variety of engaging activities. We have focused on improving our communication skills by learning how to make telephone calls, write and respond to emails, and communicate confidently and appropriately in different situations.

We have also explored healthy living through lessons on balanced diets, healthy food choices, and the different food groups. Learners have gained a better understanding of how nutrition supports overall health and wellbeing and how to make informed choices about the foods they eat.

To support our classroom learning, we have taken part in visits within the local community. These experiences have provided valuable opportunities to practise communication skills in real-life settings and learn more about healthy lifestyles and community resources. We are very proud of the enthusiasm and progress shown by all learners throughout these activities.

RC10

RC10 have had a fantastic summer term, filled with exciting experiences, hard work, and achievement. Students enjoyed a variety of trips, including playing tennis at Roundhay Park, visiting Elland Road Stadium, and spending time at the library. In lessons, the focus has been on careers and employment, helping students prepare for their future pathways and develop valuable life skills. We are incredibly proud of those students who completed their GCSE examinations this term, while others worked hard to successfully finish their Entry Level qualifications. A particular highlight of the term was the Year 11 Leavers' Prom, where we celebrated the achievements and memories of our departing students. Miss Prangnell and Mr Mann are extremely proud of everything the students have achieved this year and would like to wish all of our Year 11 leavers the very best of luck for the future as they move on to the next stage of their journey.



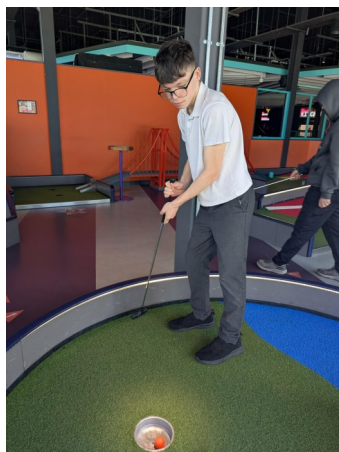
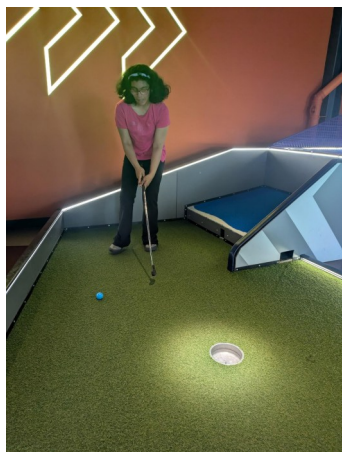
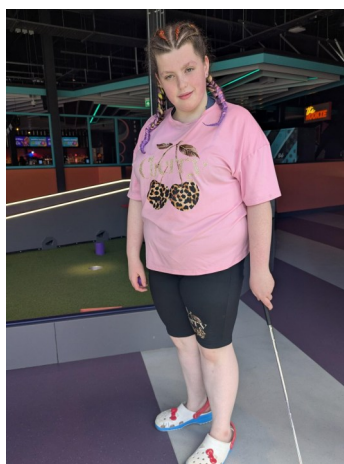
RC11

RC11 have had a fantastic final term, working hard towards their accreditations and qualifications while also preparing for the next stage of their journey through a range of Post-16 transition visits.

As a pastoral form, we enjoyed a wonderful trip to The Springs in Leeds, where we played crazy golf, shared a meal together, and celebrated a successful year.

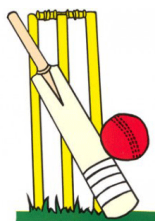
We have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the students' Year 11 journey and supporting them as they prepare for an exciting new chapter. There have been lots of laughs along the way, many happy memories made, and we will look back on this year with real fondness.

We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and wish them every success for the future. ☒



RC12

Since March when RC12 moved to JJ's we have been on many amazing trips. The learners have enjoyed several trips to the Middleton Park Cafe, they have been swimming at Armley leisure centre and playing cricket at the park. We have also been to Roundhay park and visited a local library. Some of the learners went to watch Women's Cricket World Cup at Headingley stadium a few weeks ago. We have done lots of cooking and baking as well as gardening and yoga. The learners have planted sunflowers, potatoes, chilis and we have learned how to do weeding and watering. All RC12 learners have said they have really enjoyed their time at JJ's and can't wait to see what next year brings.



GCSE Examinations

This year, we are especially proud to celebrate the learners who completed their GCSE Maths and English qualifications. Throughout the year, they approached their mock examinations with determination and maturity, using the experience to prepare themselves for the challenges ahead. They worked incredibly hard in the lead-up to their final exams, showing resilience, perseverance and a positive attitude even when things felt difficult. Their commitment and effort have been inspiring, and they should be immensely proud of all they have achieved. We are delighted to celebrate their success and are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Well done! 🌟 📄 🐝

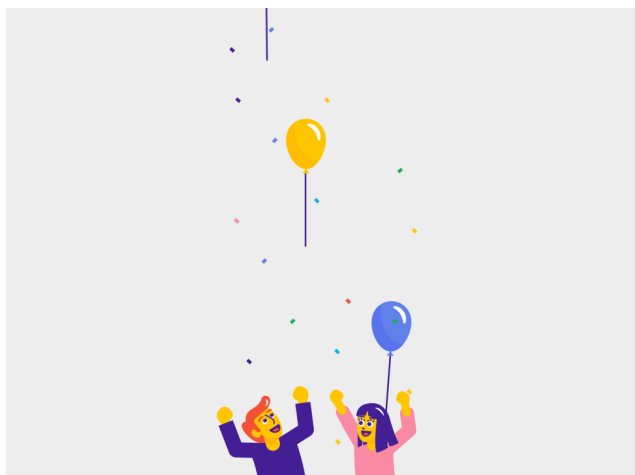
East SILC Roger Cannon Highlights

PROM NIGHT

What a fantastic night! This year's prom was a wonderful celebration of our learners' hard work and achievements. Everyone looked amazing, and the evening was filled with laughter, music, dancing and plenty of memorable moments. It was great to see friends enjoying time together, taking photos and celebrating the end of another successful year.

A huge congratulations

to all our learners—we are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved. Prom was the perfect way to finish the year, and we hope the memories made will last for years to come!



BRADLEY RICHES VISIT

On **17th June**, we were thrilled to welcome ITV's **Bradley Riches**.

Bradley spoke openly and honestly about his experiences as an autistic young man working in the television industry, sharing both the challenges he has faced and the opportunities he has embraced.

As part of the visit, learners also enjoyed taking part in an exciting **drama workshop**, where they had the opportunity to build confidence, develop performance skills and have fun working creatively together. The energy and enthusiasm throughout the session were wonderful to see.

Bradley generously spent time with us after the event, signing books, taking selfies and chatting with learners and parents.

We are incredibly grateful that he took time out of his busy filming schedule to visit us. It was a truly special day, and we would like to thank Bradley for making such a positive impact on our school community.



East SILC Roger Cannon Highlights

MUSIC

RISE project

A group of learners at the Roger Cannon site have been taking part in the RISE project through Leeds Song - www.leedssong.com. The project involved two professional artists - a singer/musician and a poet - working our learners over five weekly sessions, exploring the theme of identity through song. It was a wonderful experience for all involved. Lots of our young people wrote some incredible poetry about themselves. See below the poem they worked together to write. We performed this to the rest of the school in assembly.

Marianne Suzanne

*Marianne Suzanne lives on another planet
148 IQ, she had trouble fitting in
All her friends were Saturnites
All six seven, six seven, six seven

Where she comes from is hotter than hell
But she is like heaven
Imagine being the only human out on Saturn*

*I was raised up to be taken down
Radiant colours all around
But I walk alone on this dry ground
This world is my battleground
My final round*

*The heart-palpitating hurt
Serving in the solitude
One day, this could become*

Something new, something new, something new

Dance Event

Roger Cannon took part in the first ever East SILC dance festival this term. We had a group of fifteen learners who performed. There were young people from other sites within the East SILC performing and other schools in Leeds and Bradford. The theme was the Commonwealth and our learners did an amazing routine to the song 'Waving Flag.' We all enjoyed a thoroughly brilliant afternoon and we look forward to participating again next year!

YAMSEN choir

Learners from Roger Cannon have taken part in the YAMSEN choir again this term. We attended rehearsals with pupils from other special schools in Leeds. There were also learners from the East SILC Jack Clark site and Temple Moor partnership who took part. The summer concert took place at the Kings Hall in Ilkley. It was fantastic performing the songs we had learned to family and friends in such an impressive venue. YAMSEN is a wonderful organisation we work closely with. They provide additional musical opportunities for our young people. Yorkshire Association for Music and Special Educational Needs -

[Yamsen - Specially Music.](#)

A Fond Farewell and a Warm Welcome

This term, we say a heartfelt goodbye to our Lead Nurse, Jacquie Beattie, as she begins her well-deserved retirement. Jacquie has been a valued member of the East SILC team for many years, providing outstanding care and support to our learners, families, and staff. We thank her for her dedication and wish her a happy and relaxing retirement. We are also delighted to welcome Marie Nzambita as our new Lead Nurse. We look forward to working with Marie and wish her every success as she joins the East SILC community.



East SILC Roger Cannon Highlights

Sports Day 2026

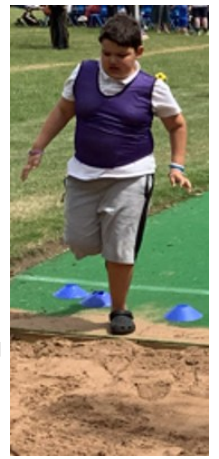
Our annual Sports Day was a fantastic success, bringing together students, staff and families for an afternoon full of energy, teamwork and competition.

Throughout the day, pupils took part in a range of events, demonstrating not only their sporting abilities but also resilience, determination and excellent sportsmanship.

The atmosphere was incredible, with students cheering on their peers and celebrating each other's achievements. It was particularly pleasing to see so many examples of encouragement, respect and teamwork, highlighting the positive spirit of our school community.

We are incredibly proud of every pupil who took part and contributed to making the afternoon such an enjoyable and memorable event.

Well done to everyone involved for making Sports Day 2026 such a wonderful celebration of sport, participation and community spirit. We are already looking forward to next year's event!



Mini Triathlon Success!

Back in May a selection of pupils took part in this years Mini Triathlon, set up by the Brownlee Foundation. Although the weather was far from ideal, with persistent rain throughout much of the event, our pupils rose to the challenge with enthusiasm, determination and plenty of smiles.

The triathlon tested pupils in a range of activities and required resilience, perseverance and a positive attitude. We were incredibly proud of how every child embraced the challenge, supported one another and gave their very best effort from start to finish.

A special highlight was seeing every participant cross the finish line and receive a well-earned medal. Each medal was a recognition not only of completing the event, but also of the excellent character and sportsmanship shown throughout the afternoon.

Most importantly, our pupils were outstanding ambassadors for the school. They consistently demonstrated our school values by being Ready, Respectful and Safe at all times. Their behaviour, encouragement of others and positive attitudes were a credit to themselves, their families and our school community.

Well done to all of our triathletes – you should be extremely proud of your achievements. We certainly are! We would also like to thank the staff who helped make the event such a success despite the challenging weather conditions.

Congratulations to everyone involved on a brilliant Mini Triathlon!



East SILC Roger Cannon Highlights

Residential 2026

Our school residential was an exciting and memorable adventure. We stayed for two nights in a pine lodge in Ingleton and took part in lots of fun activities. We explored the fascinating Forbidden Corner, enjoyed a cruise on Lake Windermere, and worked together in a STEM boat-making challenge. In the evening, we had a delicious BBQ and spent time with our friends. The trip helped us build confidence, teamwork skills, and many happy memories.





Matthew's fundraiser for the East SILC to help fund SEND residentials

This year, I'm stepping well outside my comfort zone by taking on not one, but two marathons – the Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on 10 May 2026, followed by the Altra Yorkshire Marathon on 18 October 2026. To put that challenge into perspective, the furthest I had ever run before starting this training journey was just 10k.

I've chosen to fundraise for East SILC, a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) school that does incredible work supporting its learners. East SILC offers residential trips across the UK and abroad, but for many SEND learners these opportunities are often out of reach due to the additional costs and support required.

Your donation will directly help cover vital elements such as accessible accommodation, specialist staffing and fully inclusive activities, ensuring learners can take part safely, confidently and with dignity. By supporting this cause, you're not just helping to fund a trip that may be a once in a lifetime experience – you're helping to build self belief, create lasting memories, and show SEND learners that they are valued, included and deserving of the same opportunities as everyone else.

Every donation, no matter how big or small, makes a real difference and brings these experiences closer to reality for East SILC learners. If you're unable to donate, sharing this page would still mean the world.

Thank you for reading. Thank you for caring and thank you for helping make a difference.



Scan to donate

Help us reach our target!

Make a donation with *JustGiving*



Important Dates

Please make sure you make a note of these important dates in your diary

Friday 17th July Break Up Summer Holidays

Thursday 3rd September Return To School

Friday 23rd October October Holidays
(1 week)

Monday 2nd November Return To School

Monday 30th November Training day

Friday 18th December Break up for Christmas

NURSING CONTACT INFORMATION

We would like to ensure that you have the Inclusion Nursing Service Contact Details, should you need to contact a member of the team during the holiday.

Marie Nzabamwita

East SILC Lead Nurse

0113 2492431 or

0795 129 0212

If you cannot contact a member of the Inclusion Nursing Service, please contact Susan Carr Team Leader 0113 2738644 or the service Coordinator.

Leeds Community Healthcare **NHS**
NHS Trust

