

MESSAGES FROM THE LEADERSHIP

Message from the Executive Principal

As we reach the end of another successful school year, we are delighted to share this edition of our summer newsletter, celebrating the many achievements, experiences and opportunities enjoyed by learners at **East SILC The Bridge** throughout the term. From developing independence in the community and undertaking work experience placements, to creative arts, sport, Duke of Edinburgh activities and preparation for adulthood, our learners continue to impress us with their determination, resilience 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, skill and commitment shown by our staff every day has been recognised, reflecting the hard work that goes into supporting our learners to achieve the very best outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year. Working together with families helps make East SILC such a positive and successful community. We hope you enjoy reading about our learners' achievements and wish you and your families a safe, happy and relaxing summer break

Message from the Head of School

It's always amazing to see the wonderful work our learners engage in over a term, and this term is no exception- it has been incredibly busy and so much has been achieved, as we can see from this newsletter. We also had a fantastic music festival and our first ever dance festival, alongside a 16+ day trip to London. A huge thank you to all the learners who participated in all the activity in this newsletter.

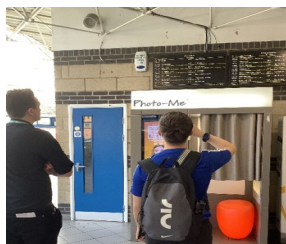
In other news, we can confirm that our new Shine provision for 16+ now has 24 confirmed Enrich learners ready for a September start with building work just started in readiness for the new academic year. Janet Vinci will be the site lead teacher from September. Lucy Lewis, the Ash class teacher has had a baby girl, Maya Rose, on 18th June. Both mum and baby are faring well.

We also want to inform you that Jacquie, who has been our lead nurse for many years is retiring at the end of this academic year. We want to thank Jacquie for all the hard work she has done as part of our community and wish her well for the future. Marie will be the new lead nurse, who has been with us over the past month but will be fully part of the team from September. As ever, we want to thank you, the families, parents and carers who help to make our school the united community that we value so highly.

We hope you have a fantastic Summer break whatever you may be doing.

Travel

This term, all travel groups have been exploring who the safe strangers are within our local community and how they can provide support in a range of everyday situations. Learners have developed their confidence in approaching appropriate members of the public for assistance, including asking for help to identify the correct bus route to the White Rose Shopping Centre, using bus timetables to plan journeys and check departure times, enquiring about performances and events at Leeds Playhouse, and requesting directions within Kirkgate Market. Through these practical activities, learners have strengthened their communication skills, travel planning abilities, independence, and confidence when accessing the community safely.



Equestrian

Students have been attending an equestrian centre every Tuesday for five weeks before breaking up for the summer holidays. As part of their work experience, they have worked very hard supporting daily tasks such as Mucking out, Tidying, Grooming and washing the horses. This experience has significantly boosted their confidence. The horses had a very calming effect on the students. It was so nice to see them all with big smiles on their faces and ready to do any job they were asked to do.



Drama

Learners in Drama have been focusing on preparing for the Summer Play, *Milkshake and Mocktails*. They have taken part in script read throughs, contributed to script amendments, and begun blocking scenes while learning their lines. Throughout the process, learners have demonstrated excellent teamwork, creativity and resilience, particularly when responding to direction and repeatedly rehearsing scenes to improve their performance. We're well on our way to have a performance to remember!



Arts & Crafts

Learners in Art & Craft have recently returned to painting as a key focus, exploring the work of famous artists such as Henry Matisse, George Seurat and Edvard Munch. Through these studies, learners developed their understanding of the colour wheel and experimented with Seurat's pointillism technique, using primary-coloured dots to create the optical illusion of secondary and tertiary colours. They also created vibrant impressionist style paintings inspired by Matisse's bold use of colour, and re-created pieces influenced by Munch, using colour and expressive brushstrokes to convey emotion. The artwork produced by learners has been excellent, showcasing both creativity and a growing confidence in different artistic styles.



RSE

This term in RSE, learners have been exploring the role of digital media in relationships. They have discussed how online platforms can support communication, but also the potential risks they can present. A key part of learning has focused on the dangers of sexting and the importance of understanding privacy, consent, and the possible consequences of sharing images online. Learners have also considered online dating, including how to stay safe and protect personal information. Importantly, we have had discussions around age limits and the law in relationships, helping learners understand legal boundaries and why these exist to keep them safe. Overall, learners have approached these topics with maturity and respect, developing valuable knowledge to support safe and healthy relationships both online and offline.



ICC Headingley Cricket

We had the opportunity, as a whole site, to go and watch the Women's T20 World Cup cricket, and it proved to be a truly worthwhile and memorable experience. From travelling to the destination, to experiencing a live sporting event, the day offered so many valuable moments. Learners enjoyed spending time with their peers, and for some, it sparked a new interest and love for cricket. It was also incredibly special to come together as a whole site, sharing such a positive experience and creating lasting memories



Sailing

This term in sailing, learners have been working towards their Sailability awards, including Entry Level, Bronze, and Silver. The summer term weather has been very inconsistent, providing a range of challenges.

For example, on one occasion there was no wind at all, meaning learners had to use paddles to get their boats moving. Despite these conditions, learners have shown great resilience and adaptability, developing their confidence and problem-solving skills on the water. The volunteers at Otley Sailing Club have been fantastic, ensuring that all learners have the opportunity to engage with sailing at a level that suits them best.

Learners have also developed a supportive buddy system, partnering each week with a peer who may be less confident or experienced, offering guidance and encouragement whilst out on the water. It has been wonderful to see both skills and friendships grow through these shared experiences.



Career Compass

This term, our learners took part in an engaging and informative workshop delivered by Career Compass, focusing on careers within the healthcare sector.

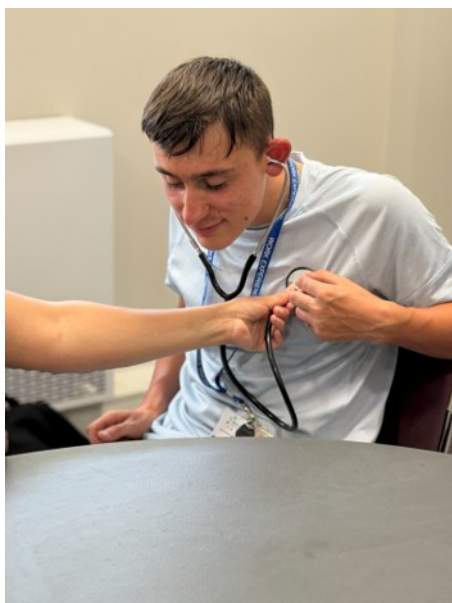
The session highlighted the wide variety of opportunities available within the NHS, with learners discovering that there are over 300 different job roles to explore—ranging far beyond the more commonly known positions.

Throughout the workshop, learners were given the chance to:

- Explore and interact with different types of healthcare equipment
- Take part in fun, interactive games designed to develop their communication skills
- Learn about the diverse pathways and roles available within the NHS

It was fantastic to see such enthusiasm and active participation from everyone involved.

Well done to all learners who engaged so positively and made the most of this opportunity!



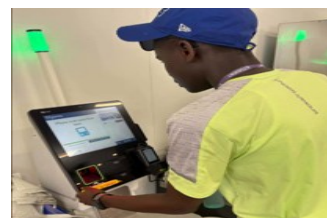
Shop, Cook, Eat

In Shop Cook Eat, learners have been developing their understanding of food safety, focusing on how to tell when food is fully cooked and safe to eat. We also enjoyed an “Around the World” World Cup theme, preparing a different recipe from a different country each week and exploring new foods and cultures.



English & Maths in the community

With a partial return to the library for some learners, we have been practicing travelling safely around Leeds. Learners have been encouraged to make small purchases, practicing interacting with staff members and ensuring they understand and recognise amounts of money needed for purchases. The focus this term has been on the maths side, focussing on putting the more formal maths lessons into practice!



Film Studies

In film studies the learners have been working toward the completion of a year long process of making stop motion animation films. The effort the learners have put into this whole project is very impressive, writing the story, making the characters and designing and creating the sets all themselves. We are all excited to see the final outcomes before the year is out!



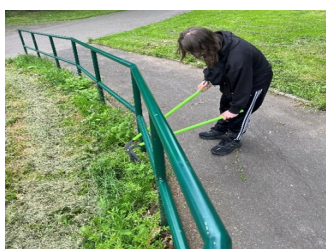
DofE

This year, learners at The Bridge have been working towards various sections of their Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award. Many lessons have focused on improving fitness through regular walks, with learners completing a range of medium-distance routes to build the resilience and stamina needed for a future expedition. Learners have also worked towards their accreditation through a variety of volunteering and work experience opportunities. Although this year's group was unable to complete an expedition due to low participant numbers, we hope to return to the programme next year and undertake another successful expedition.



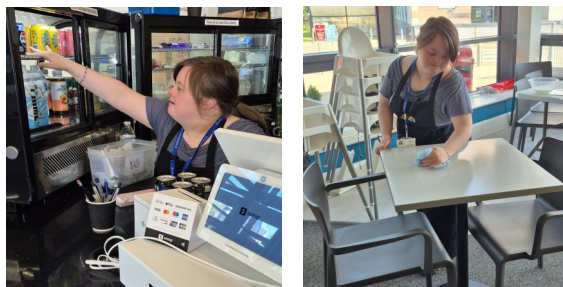
Harehills Bowls Club Volunteering

During the summer term, a group of learners from The Bridge have volunteered at Harehills Bowls Club every Thursday morning. They have supported the maintenance of the club's two bowling greens and helped prepare the site for upcoming events. Their tasks have included a range of gardening and grounds maintenance duties, such as mowing lawns, trimming hedges, sweeping paths, repainting bowling green borders, and tending flower beds. Throughout their volunteering, learners have also gained hands-on experience using a variety of tools, from gardening shears to leaf blowers. For learners interested in gardening, outdoor work, or grounds maintenance, this opportunity has provided valuable practical experience and insight into careers within the sector.



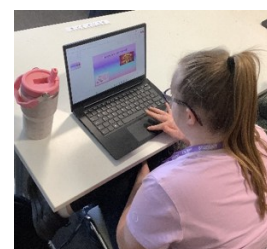
Bridge Community Church café

Sophie has been enjoying her work experience placement at the Bridge Community Church Café, where she has been developing a range of valuable workplace skills. Her responsibilities have included cleaning and disinfecting tables and baby high chairs to help maintain a safe and welcoming environment for customers. She has also assisted with washing up and ensuring that plates, cups and cutlery are put away in the correct places. As her confidence has grown, Sophie has taken on additional tasks such as restocking and she is now working towards serving drinks to customers. Sophie has shown a positive attitude, willingness to learn and strong commitment throughout her placement, making her a valued member of the café team.



Digital Media

This term, learners have been developing their digital skills by exploring how electronic devices can be used in a range of workplace settings. They have gained hands-on experience using different types of hardware and have developed their confidence when using technology to complete work-related tasks. Learners have used search engines to research and locate information, learning how to identify useful and reliable sources. They have also developed their document creation skills by editing and formatting Word documents, including changing fonts, adjusting layouts and presenting information clearly. In addition, learners have practised sending, receiving and responding to emails, helping them to develop professional communication skills.



Prom Night Highlights

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!

Ofsted Report 2026

We are delighted to share our 2026 Ofsted report with you. We are incredibly proud of this report and hope that you will be too. The report recognises the strength of our provision, the positive experiences of our learners, the strong relationships between staff and learners, and the high aspirations we hold for every young person. This outcome is a reflection of the dedication, skill and commitment of our staff team, who work tirelessly every day to support our learners and their families. It also reflects the invaluable partnership we have with our parents and carers, whose support plays such an Important role in our learners' success. Most importantly, the report celebrates our wonderful learners, who continue to inspire us with their achievements, resilience and determination. You will also be able to read the report attached via the Ofsted Reports website here: [Ofsted Report Website](#). Thank you for your continued support of East SILC. We hope you enjoy reading the report and sharing in this significant achievement.



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 of 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.

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.

Matthews Fundraising



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.



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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



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

