



# LLS News

21/03/2025



Dear families

This week has been a busy and engaging week for everyone at Linden Lodge.

We started the week with a celebration of our recent Residential Ofsted Inspection. We are thrilled to share that for the second year running our residential provision has been judged 'Outstanding'. We shared the fantastic news during our Monday morning staff meeting where we enjoyed some delicious treats for breakfast. In the afternoon the residential team arrived and celebrated with an afternoon tea and the students carried on the celebrations with a special dinner that evening. We would like to congratulate the Residential Team on such a fantastic achievement!

We have had exciting and inspirational visitors this week. Lucy Edwards, an award-winning blind broadcaster, content creator, and disability activist visited to read a passage from her first children's book. We also had a visit from a RAF band for a performance which included a wide range of musical styles including the National Anthem and music from Monsters Inc!

Thank you to everyone who has supported Red Nose Day today we raised £108 and our Food Tech Department have raised a further £141 with a fun Red Nose Day Bake Off competition.

Have a lovely weekend.



Sixth Form 1 enjoying Red Nose Day

## Kindness Award

**James** for showing on his iPad that he would like to say 'Hello' to some of his peers.

**Maryam** for being happy and interactive with all peers and staff.



## Habilitation Star of the Week

**Royem** for a brilliant first Habilitation session and advocating what she would like to learn.



## Events and dates to remember Spring Term Dates

**17th -23rd March**

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

<https://www.bbc.com/news/round/articles/cwyjdz3pnz3o>

**24th March to 3rd April**

LOLER testing of students' slings, Please send all slings from home that are used in school to be tested.

**Wednesday 26th March**

Purple Day - Raising Awareness for Epilepsy

<https://www.youngepilepsy.org.uk/>

**Thursday 3rd April**

Last day for pupils

**Friday 4th April**

Planning and Preparation Day 2 for staff (no pupils)

**Tuesday 6th May 12pm**

C@LL AGM

## Stars of the Week

**Amelia** for excellent dressing skills during our swimming session -positioning her body to support putting/taking items of clothing on/off (handing them to an adult to avoid the wet floor) and adjusting her clothes to make sure they are comfortable.



**David** for lovely signing for the word 'hot' and for being happy in tactile signing.

**Alice** for being engaged with all activities throughout the week and using eye gaze to communicate.

**Matteo** for developing his independence by bringing his cup to his mouth to have some smoothie. Great effort, Matteo!

Dear Community at Linden Lodge,

On behalf of the C@LL committee I would like to thank the Linden Lodge School community for your continued support and dedication towards C@LL. The C@LL committee recently met and I want to provide you with an update prior to our AGM, which will take place on Tuesday the 6th May at 12pm. Please save the date!



Committee updates:

As you may be aware, this year I have been Acting Chair of C@LL whilst we seek a Chair Person from our parent community. At the forthcoming AGM on the 06.05.25 I will be standing down as Acting Chair, however I am thrilled to announce that Rebecca, C@LL's current Treasurer, has expressed an interest in becoming the Chair Person. In addition, Lynsey, C@LL secretary and Saira, a parent member, are unable to continue in post and will be stepping down at the AGM. Both Lynsey and Saira have given so much of their time supporting C@LL, therefore may I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to them both on behalf of myself and C@LL for their dedication and time.

As you know, C@LL cannot function without Linden Lodge community members volunteering their time to support C@LL and the events that C@LL organises. We know our families are supportive of C@LL and very much appreciate being able to attend community events both at school and or online. The continuation of C@LL is our top priority, ensuring we are able to continue to organise and fund a wide range of informative and social events for you all to access.

In order for C@LL to continue, we will need to fill both Treasurer and Secretary positions. If you are interested in taking on the roles of Treasurer or Secretary or interested in joining as an ordinary member, please do get in touch via [communityatlindenlodge@gmail.com](mailto:communityatlindenlodge@gmail.com).

AGM: Save the Date!

On Tuesday 6th May at 12pm our annual AGM will take place. I hope you are able to join us in order to help us make key decisions on C@LL's future. The meeting will take place virtually and a link will be sent out prior to the meeting taking place.

David Shaw,  
Acting Chair

## Drum Class Rights Charter

The **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child** is like a special list of rights or articles that all children from all around the world, from birth to 18 years old, are entitled to. It was created to make sure that every child is treated well and has a good life. There are 54 rights or articles.

Bassoon class dressed up for World book day!

Our Class Charter shows the rights that we think are the most important to allow us to learn happily and to achieve the best that we can in Drum Class.



The right to be safe



The right to be healthy



The right to an education



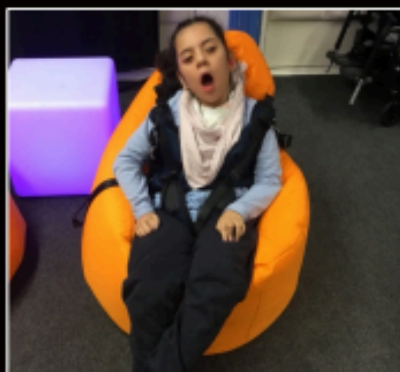
The right to learn



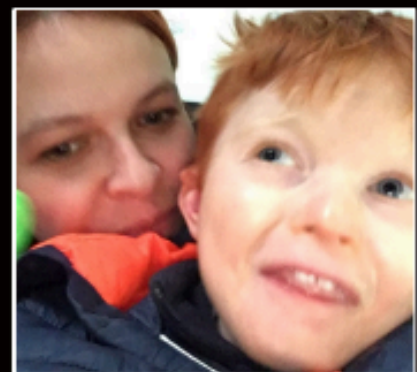
The right to express yourself



The right to be heard



The right to relax and play



The right to have friends

What do you think?

## An afternoon of magical music (and sunshine) from our visiting RAF Band

On Thursday afternoon in the sunshine, the saxophone and clarinet quartets from the band of the RAF, performed two very special music concerts. The first performance took place in our sensory garden where they supported us to raise our new Union Jack flag. With our sixth form students watching, God Save the King was performed and Sgt Andrew Braet then raised the flag. It was an honour for us to have the band of the RAF support us with this ceremony.

Later in the afternoon the band of the RAF then performed an outdoor concert for our pupils. Dressed in full military regalia, they performed many well known songs which had our students dancing and clapping along to the music. Everyone in attendance loved listening to the sounds each instrument made and it was wonderful to see how engaged our students were with them. Feedback from the band of the RAF was that they all had a wonderful time and are very much looking forward to coming back.

Our sincere thanks go out to the band of the RAF for giving their time to perform to our students and creating such a special memory for our entire school community. We can't wait for your return!



## Awarding winning blind broadcaster visits Linden Lodge

On Tuesday 18th March Lucy Edwards, her husband Ollie and guide dog Miss Molly came to Linden Lodge to read a passage from her first children's book 'Ella Jones vs The Sun Stealer'.

Lucy is an award-winning blind broadcaster, content creator, and disability activist. She has recently become an ambassador for the RNIB as well as being the UK representative of Mattel's blind Barbie doll. Her children's book features blind protagonist Ella who is the only one who can save the day when all the light disappears from the world at the hands of the vengeful Celtic god Lugh.



*Photo: Ollie and Lucy face each other and talk about the book. On the table in front of them is Lucy's book in print and braille, with a Perkins brailler sitting in the middle between them. Her guide dog Miss Molly is lying on the floor to Lucy's left and her harness is accessorised with a large, bright pink bow.*

Lucy explained how important it is to her to increase the level of accurate representation of people with vision impairment within the media and in literature, stating how few examples were available to her during her teenage years. Her book is also intended to challenge misconceptions around how people who are blind carry out daily activities.

Ahead of Lucy's arrival, pupils listened to the book in class and prepared questions for her. Here are some excerpts from the Q&A:

### **How long did it take you to write the book?**

"I had the idea in my head for around 10 years. I knew that I wanted it to have a blind main character as the hero who was totally ordinary and had no superpowers. I knew that there were certain scenes I wanted to take place, too, like Ella making breakfast for her dad because of course that's something we can do!"

### **What was the writing process for the book?**

"I used an app called Trello to sticky note all the different scenes. Originally the book was going to be a sci-fi novel and the sun was going to explode and the light go out that way, but we realised that for the story to work we needed to set up the premise that guide dog Maisie could still see. So instead Ollie and I spent a lot of time researching Greek and Celtic mythology before discovering Lugh, the god of light and justice. At my wedding we blindfolded all of our guests as I walked down the aisle so they could experience our day in the same way as me and we used that to inform the book's writing, too."

### **How did you get your confidence back after losing your sight?**

"There were a few things that worked for me. I repeated positive affirmations to myself every day which helped as I would never say the mean things I was saying to myself to others. It's OK to have days where you feel sad but it's important to be able to pick yourself back up, too. We are so strong and capable and there's nothing we can't do. My mobility officer helped me to feel a lot more confident with my independent living skills - I remember feeling so proud when I made Spaghetti Bolognese all by myself for the first time."



*Photos show pupils using a microphone to ask Lucy their questions.*



*All pupils also had the chance to greet Miss Molly as Lucy kindly removed her working harness.*

## Careers

On Tuesday 4th March, our students had the exciting opportunity to visit the Leonardo Hotel, a prestigious luxury hotel chain in the heart of St Paul's, London. This visit allowed our students to explore the fascinating world of hospitality and gain first-hand experience of what it is like to work in a hotel.

Throughout the day, students had the chance to hear from various hotel departments, from front-of-house to behind-the-scenes operations. We also learned about the diverse roles that contribute to the smooth running of a luxury hotel and gained valuable insights into the hospitality industry.

In addition to the informative sessions, students were treated to an array of delicious food and drinks, offering a taste of the high-quality offerings the hotel is known for. The experience was both enjoyable and educational, leaving our students with a deeper understanding of the hospitality field and a lasting impression of their visit to London's top hotels.

While we were at the hotel, we were joined by the regional manager who is vision impaired himself, it was so inspirational for us all to hear his journey into employment. We would like to extend our thanks to the Leonardo Hotel team for welcoming us and for providing such an enriching experience for our students!

## Celebrating Science Week in the Primary Department

Our Primary students had some messy fun celebrating British Science Week recently. During our weekly Primary Assembly, students explored different science experiments that engaged the senses. Primary students enjoyed exploring smelly and fizzy vinegar and bicarb. feeling sticky oobleck and listening to tuning forks vibrate on a drum. We all had a blast!



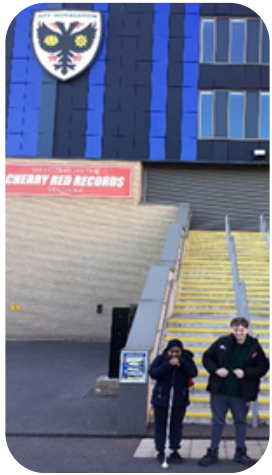
## Richley House visit to Wimbledon Football Club

The young people from Richley House enjoyed a fantastic visit to Wimbledon FC on Tuesday.

The young people had a look around the stadium and behind the scenes while learning the history of the football club.

An ex pupil of Linden Lodge school and residential, who left 20 years ago, joined us for the visit. Hassan now helps run Merton Vision and has joined Wimbledon FC for accessibility training. It was great for our young people to meet Hassan and hear about his journey after leaving Linden Lodge. The visit was fun, engaging and educational. Towards the end, our young people got to show off their skills on the training grounds AstroTurf.

Thank you to Maddie and Henry from Wimbledon FC for a wonderful time.



## Raising Awareness in Bassoon Class

Today Bassoon Class dressed to impress and raise awareness. They have been taking part in Red Nose Day for Comic Relief by wearing red and they have also been raising awareness of Down Syndrome Awareness Day which is also known as odd sock day.



# Therapy Team News

The Speech and Language Therapy team would like to celebrate neurodiversity awareness week by sharing some neurodivergent goals and affirming language shifts.



# NEURODIVERSITY AWARENESS WEEK

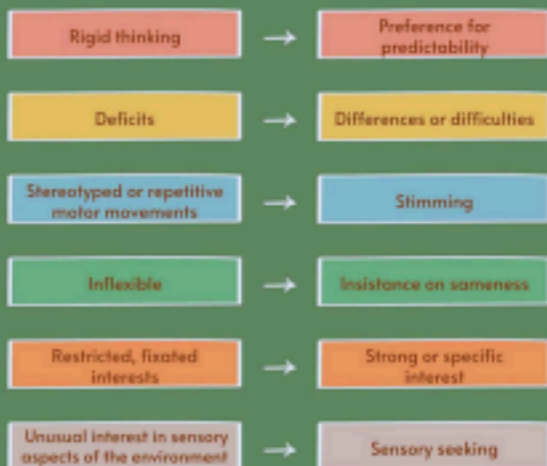
## Neurodivergent Umbrella



## Neurodivergent Iceberg



## Neurodiversity Affirming, Strengths-Based Language Shifts



@ThrivingMindsEducation

## Neurodiversity Affirming Goals

educate others on supportive strategies

develop a suitable communication style

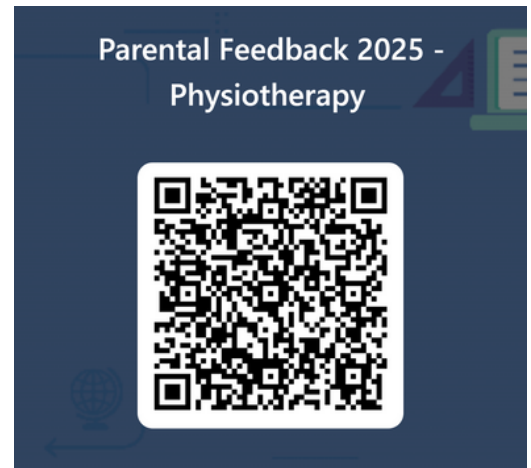
support self-advocacy skills

expand on the young person's special interests

## Physiotherapy Team Parent & Carer Feedback Survey

Please can you take 5-10 minutes to complete the survey via QR code below to help the physiotherapy team work towards improving their service. It is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, PT team.



## Noticeboard

Thursday 27 March, 10am to 12pm (in person meeting)

**Discover more about Merton's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme and help shape the HAF activities on offer for SEND with Bob Allen, HAF Programme Manager**

Merton's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme gives children and young people opportunities to enjoy physical exercise, arts, cultural activities, healthy food, trips out and other fun activities.

HAF Holiday Clubs are free for children and young people between 5 and 15 years old eligible for benefits-related Free School Meals.

Share your experiences and ideas in this special parent carer engagement opportunity and help shape the service for SEND!

In person at the Community Room at: Canons Leisure Centre, Madeira Road, Mitcham CR4 4HD

Make sure to book your place at this session. Bob Allen, the HAF Programme Manager, would like to hear the view of parents of SEND children and young people to help shape future HAF activities. Make sure YOUR view is heard!

Due to catering and seating reasons, please BOOK with Tuhina.

You can email, text, WhatsApp, or phone call below:

kf.admin@mertonmencap.org.uk / 07929 670645 / 020 3963 0597