



Linden Lodge School
Provider of specialist education since 1903

LLS News

15/07/2026



Dear families

We would like to thank you for all of your support this year.

We will finish the school year tomorrow with a Wellbeing Day for students. We have some fun activities planned for everyone during the morning.

We would like to remind you that school finishes for the summer break at 1.30pm tomorrow (Thursday 16th July). School reopens for students on Friday 4th September at 8.50am.

Have a lovely restful summer.



Events and dates to remember



Last day for students

Thursday 16th July 2026. School finishes at 1.30pm

Planning and Preparation Days

Friday 17th July 2026 & Monday 20th July 2026

INSET Days

Wednesday 2nd September & Thursday 3rd September 2026

School reopens for students

Friday 4th September 2026 at 8.50am

Free School Meal changes for the 2026 to 2027 academic year

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 academic year, all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit attending these schools will be entitled to receive a free meal, regardless of earnings.

Going forward, there will be 2 categories of benefits-based free school meals:

- Targeted FSM: households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less. These students will be entitled to Pupil Premium funding.
- Expanded FSM: households receiving Universal Credit. These students will not be entitled to Pupil Premium funding.

Families with no recourse to public funds may also be eligible for Targeted FSM subject to meeting separate criteria.

All pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 will also continue to be entitled to free school meals under the universal infant free school meals policy regardless of family circumstances.

Ending transitional protections

Since 2018, some children have continued to receive free school meals, even if their family circumstances changed during the rollout of Universal Credit. This is referred to as transitional protections. Now that entitlement is being expanded to all families on Universal Credit, these protections will end at the end of the 2025 to 2026 academic year.

Please remember that Linden Lodge is a nut free school



www.lindenlodge.org.uk

T: 0208 788 0107



@lindenlodesch

Enabling

Nurturing

Succeeding

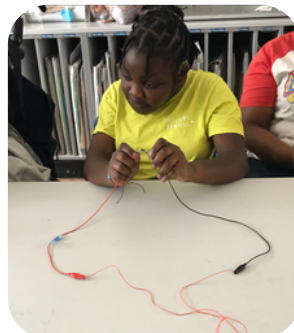
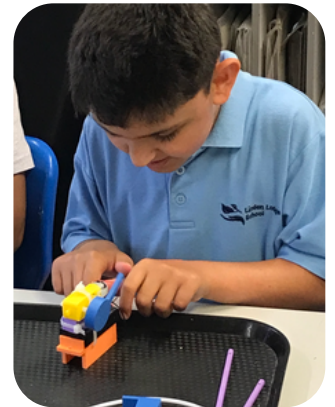
Wax Sculpture Workshops: Henry Moore Institute & Artist Aaron McPeake

As part of the Beyond the Visual project and exhibition at the Henry Moore Institute, students from Minerva 1, Minerva 2, and Minerva Sixth Form took part in a two-week sculpture workshop led by artists Alison Smith, Emily Binks, and a blind artist, Aaron McPeake. The workshops introduced students to Henry Moore's *Mother and Child: Arch* (1959), inspiring them to create their own sculptural responses around the wider themes of relationships and connection. Working with plasticine clay, natural materials, and wax, students explored a range of tactile techniques while developing their own creative ideas. The students' wax sculptures will be cast in bronze and exhibited during the next academic year.



Robotics Art Workshops: Artist Huda

Students from Harp and Sixth Form 1 enjoyed an exciting two-week workshop with robotics and 3D printing artist Huda. Alongside experiencing Huda's large-scale robotic artwork, *Would You Still Love Me If I Were a Worm* (2025), students explored robotics through hands-on making. To ensure the activities were fully accessible, Huda designed and 3D-printed bespoke robotic components that students could easily explore and assemble. By feeling, examining, and constructing each part, students discovered how the mechanisms worked together before bringing their own robotic worms to life. The workshops were filled with energy, curiosity, and excitement as students embraced this unique creative experience.



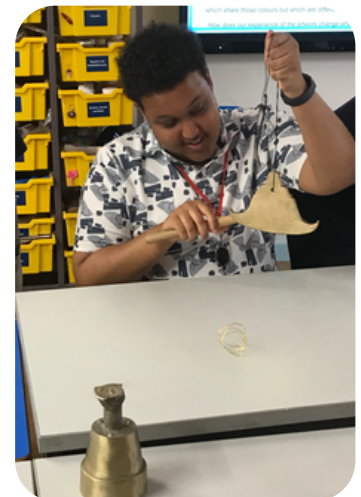
Wire Sculpture Workshops: Artist Kit

Students from Ukulele, Harp, Bassoon, and Kalimba took part in two inspiring weeks of wire sculpture workshops with artist Kit. After experiencing Kit's large-scale wire sculptures, students created their own sculptural works using wire and a variety of tactile materials. The sessions combined sculpture-making with music, movement, conversation, and sensory exploration. Students had a lot of fun, creating imaginative sculptures that will soon be exhibited as a collaborative installation at ACME Artist Studios and the University of the Arts London.



Write on Art Project: ArtUK & Paul Mellon Centre, Yale University

Students from Bassoon, Minerva 1, Minerva 2, Minerva Sixth Form, and Flute participated in the Write on Art project, a national competition delivered in partnership with ArtUK and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art at Yale University. Working alongside artists Hettie James, Stephanie Farmer, and a blind artist, Aaron McPeake, students explored Eduardo Paolozzi's *Faraday* (2000) and responded to the artwork by writing their own poems, which will be submitted to the national competition. As part of the workshops, Aaron McPeake shared his own bronze bell sculptures, giving students the opportunity to experience and discuss original artworks through touch. The 2 weeks workshops had beautiful conversations about materiality, what it means to be human, and what it means to be resilient.



Transitioning to adulthood

Thank you to everyone who has followed along with our Transitioning to Adulthood series! We would appreciate it if you could take the time to fill out the anonymous survey in the link below. Your responses will inform future Habilitation articles.

<https://form.jotform.com/261833014277051>

Accessible living spaces

For some, the transition to adulthood means new living spaces. For our final article of the school year, we explore adapting houses for people with disabilities.

Renting and reasonable adjustments

Per the Equality Act 2010, tenants are entitled to request reasonable adjustments from their landlord or property manager.

These adjustments can be procedural, meaning that landlords and property managers may need to adjust their processes to accommodate a disabled person, for example, by ensuring all communications are sent in an accessible manner, by providing tenancy agreements in accessible formats, and by collecting rent in a way that is accessible to the tenant.

These adjustments may also be physical. They may include adaptations to furniture, furnishings, or equipment, such as changing the colours of walls, doors, and surfaces to increase colour contrast, installing non-fixed ramps, and changing taps and door handles so they can be opened more easily. There is no exact definition of what is considered a reasonable adjustment. Many factors will be considered including costs, how long you plan to stay in the property, and how easily the change can be undone when you leave.

Landlords are not obligated to make structural changes to the property, such as widening doorways or installing permanent ramps, and they do not have to adapt common spaces, such as hallways in blocks of flats. You may choose to still ask for these adaptations even though the landlord does not have to agree; they may still choose to make these changes if they feel it would add value to their property. They may be more likely to agree if they are aware that they can receive a Disabled Facilities Grant.

Follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/housing/housing-discrimination/discrimination-in-housing/taking-action/asking-for-adjustments-to-help-with-your-disability/>

Disabled Facilities Grants

If your home needs adapting to accommodate your child's disabilities, you may wish to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant. This is a grant from the council which can be used to make homes more accessible. The grant can be used for minor or major adaptations to the home, such as widening doorways, resurfacing uneven paths, or installing grab rails. If you are interested in this grant, you will need to apply through your local council.

If your child is over 18, this grant is means-tested. This means that the amount you'll be entitled to receive will depend on your household income and savings. Depending on your income, you may need to contribute financially to the adaptations in order for the council to offer a grant. People who receive certain benefits are exempt from contributing financially towards the adaptations.

Disabled Facilities Grants can be requested by homeowners, tenants, and landlords. If you are a tenant, the council will need your landlord's permission before making any changes to the property; however, a landlord cannot unreasonably refuse if the adaptations are essential for a disabled person's needs.

Follow the links below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-facilities-grants>

<https://adaptmyhome.org.uk>

Please note, if you do proceed with any building work that is undertaken as a result of your family member's disability, you may be exempt from paying VAT:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/vat-relief-on-certain-building-work-if-you-have-a-disability>

Disabled Persons Parking Bay

Blue Badge users may wish to request that a Disabled Persons Parking Bay is installed near their home. Not everyone with a Blue Badge is eligible for this. The criteria will vary per borough but this service is not usually available to people who already have access to an off-street parking space. We have included a link to information on Disabled Persons Parking Bays in Wandsworth but you may wish to look up what is available in your borough:

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/accessible-travel/blue-badges/disabled-parking-bay/>



Woodlarks

From the 6th -10th July, 9 students at Linden Lodge completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition section at Woodlarks Accessible Campsite in Farnham, Surrey.

The students and staff had a fantastic time and enjoyed the warm weather in the nature. They took part in lots of fun activities like swimming, zip-lining, baking, tie-dyeing, arts and crafts, singing and dancing. They learned about the ocean with some lovely visitors from Head2head Sensory Theatre and turned into pirates for one day! They also went on a Woodland Walk around the campsite and enjoyed an outdoors spa evening. It was a lovely week where the students spent quality time with their peers, socialised, developed their self-esteem and a range of skills.

Thank you to all the staff who worked so hard to make this week possible and supported the students in this trip, to the Linden Lodge Charitable Trust and the Jack Petchey Foundation for the financial support and to the Woodlarks Trust who have created this amazing campsite and provides our young people with such an amazing opportunity each year.

Marina San Teodoro
Duke of Edinburgh Manager



Co-Headteachers' Awards

EYFS

Tambourine	Nour	For having such a positive attitude to all that he does and developing across all areas of the curriculum.
Maracas	Enderson	For making excellent progress in learning and bringing joy to everyone with his wonderful sense of humour. Enderson has shown significant growth in his emotional and expressive communication.

Primary

Guitar	Tiago	For having an amazing year and progressing across all areas of the curriculum. Tiago has gone on school trips, started hydro and tasters!
Harp	Nicolas	For his beautiful singing in class and at events. Nicolas has made outstanding progress with his communication and with braille this year. He can now write his name independently.
Violin	Pietra	For engaging well in her physio this term, beginning to self-regulate and show curiosity for the world around her. We are very proud of you, Pietra!
Ukulele	Amelia	For always approaching all learning opportunities and experiences with a calm, confident and happy attitude.

Secondary

Oboe	Roza	For making amazing progress using her iPad, voice, gestures and symbols to communicate in Oboe class. We are proud of your achievements in Secondary and wish you success in Sixth Form.
Clarinet	Bethany	For using her voice to express her wants, needs and to make choices in structured sessions. Bethany's vocabulary continues to grow and she is learning new words and phrases constantly.
Piano	Jay	For making remarkable progress in his communication and comprehension. Jay has been using the Eye Gaze device to greet his friends, express his emotions and play.
Kalimba	Lilly	For actively engaging in her physiotherapy routine, building independence in swimming sessions, and further developing her communication skills.

Alba

Drum	Ophelia	For an amazing term using her cane, Objects of Reference, and for her beautiful smile when interacting with staff.
Tabla	Kaydon	For showing resilience and making significant progress upon returning to school post-surgery. We are so proud of you Kaydon. Well done!
Gamelan	James	For his fantastic progress with communication, clearly letting us know his wants, thoughts and asking questions. James, you are a superstar!

Minerva

Flute	Chapman	For being more engaged with conversations and for his increasing confidence in his independence skills.
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Bassoon	Ishaan	For contributing positively to his learning and progress throughout this year, by enthusiastically engaging in his lessons and consistently being a role model to his peers. Well done!
Minerva 1	Annabelle	For her willingness to engage in class discussions and for a positive attitude to learning. Annabelle tries her best and has produced work that she is proud of. Well done!
Minerva 2	Phoebe	For having an excellent sense of humour and for developing her communication skills. Well done Phoebe!
Minerva 6th Form	Tami	For working hard this year, contributing well to class discussions and for always persevering even when things get tough.

Sixth Form

SF1	Harleigh	For being kind and caring towards her peers and doing amazing work at the Café.
SF2	Qasim	For working hard in all subjects and for developing his communication and independent living skills with adult support and modelling.
SF3	Nayera	For excellent improvement in her mobility skills this year. Nayera took her first steps of independent walking on June 10th and has been supported to continue since then on a daily basis.
Trombone	Harper	For making fantastic progress in building positive connections with staff and peers through eye contact and confidently moving around the classroom in her standing sling.

Residential

Ground Floor	Aviyah	For developing her confidence in transitions on foot, with support, as well as climbing the stairs in Richley House
Middle Floor	Harry T	For developing his life skills and becoming more independent and responsible in his self-care routines.

Pupil of the Year 2026

EYFS

Tambourine	Magdalini	For showing resilience and determination throughout the year, and for her increased independence in her mobility and exploration skills.
Maracas	Almir	For developing his confidence and for his progress throughout the year. Almir has worked hard to develop his communication skills, using total communication (including signing) to express his wants and needs.

Primary

Guitar	Matteo	For working hard to improve his independence in his learning and personal care routines. Matteo has developed his social skills and is a friendly and enthusiastic member of Guitar Class.
Harp	Poppy S	For excelling in all areas of learning this academic year. Poppy is a wonderful, cheerful role model for her peers. Well done!

Violin	Tadas	For maturing, growing, trying new things, becoming a more consistent communicator and engaging brilliantly in all classes. Tadas, you have been a pleasure to teach.
Ukulele	Arjun	For increased interest in his environment and peers, developing relationships and using his words and singing voice to interact with everyone around him.
Secondary		
Oboe	Alhagie	For great progress – engaging with interest for longer periods in new activities, both independently and with support. We are proud of your success in Secondary and wish you well in Sixth Form!
Clarinet	Gabby	For incredible progress in her communication and mobility. Gabby is now using symbols and words to communicate throughout the day and is walking around the school with confidence.
Piano	Alejandro	For becoming increasingly vocal and showing more awareness of his peers and familiar staff members, responding well to them, including his new 1:1. Alejandro has also made fantastic progress in his physical development and mobility!
Kalimba	Poppy	For developing her understanding of how to use her communication device so she can communicate more effectively across different lessons and learning activities.

Alba

Drum	Shay	For his amazing progress with walking, using his AAC device, increased interest in others, being happier and more mature and ready for Secondary. Well done, Super Shay!
Tabla	Hooriyah	For good engagement in all learning activities and for good interaction with adults in class as well as some of her classmates. Well done, Hooriyah!
Gamelan	Reuben	For a smooth and happy transition to Gamelan Class and settling into his new routines.

Minerva

Flute	Destiny	For contributing to a positive classroom environment, making everyone smile and looking out for the welfare of pupils around her. Destiny has also made great progress in expressing herself and in her independence.
Bassoon	Isabela	For her kindness, compassion and always setting a good example for her peers.
Minerva 1	Tiffany	For her positive attitude and commitment to learning during phonics sessions. Tiffany is now reading with greater fluency and has been applying her phonics knowledge when working in other lessons.
Minerva 2	Emily	For being so kind and caring towards her peers, and bringing so much positivity to Minerva 2!
Minerva 6th Form	Mohamed	For always working diligently, continuing to make amazing progress across his subjects and for always trying his best.

Sixth Form

SF1	Savannah	For being resilient, determined and hard-working, especially during her work experience at the Library, and for passing her Food Tech exam. Well done.
SF2	Drew	For significant progress in all areas of learning. Drew has flourished and her kindness and compassion towards her peers and familiar staff has been exceptional!
SF3	Andrew	For improvement in his receptive communication. Andrew can anticipate that he needs to stand up and transition upon seeing a photo of his next activity and needs minimal support to transition to a familiar place.
Trombone	Abdullah	For consistently demonstrating a fantastic attitude to learning, bringing happiness and positivity to the classroom with his sociable personality.

Residential

Ground Floor	Alice	For her big smiles and positive interactions at Richley House. Well done, Alice!
Middle Floor	DJ	For developing his confidence and willingness to join social activities and be part of the group. Well done, DJ!

Couch to Half-Marathon



Hello! For those who may not know me, my name is Becky and I am the Learning Resource Centre Manager at Linden Lodge. On the 13th September 2026, I will be participating in the Great North Run and fundraising for Guide Dogs. I began training in February, starting from zero having done no running previously!

Many of our pupils have benefited from the services Guide Dogs offer, from grants for specialist technology to the customisable large print books available in our library.



Jack, one of our receptionists, is a Guide Dog user and said: "Having my guide dog, Carpenter, has completely changed my life. He has given me the confidence to travel independently and safely, allowing me to go to places I once found challenging. Carpenter has helped me become more self-reliant, reduced my anxiety when getting around, and given me the freedom to live a more active and independent life. Beyond his practical support, he is a loyal companion who has made a positive difference to my wellbeing and confidence every day."

I would be so grateful if you would consider donating to my page by following this link [Great North Run - Becky](#) or by scanning the QR code below:

