

## **Appendix 1**

### **February Half Term Report**

#### **Monday 16<sup>th</sup>**

First day of half term and we set off to our neighbouring borough of Richmond for a visit to Orleans House and Eel Pie Island. Twelve young people, aged from nine to sixteen, travelled from Horizons to Twickenham for our first joint venture with Richmond. Joining other children in care from Richmond we walked down the beautiful riverside to Eel Pie Island, stopping on the way to see the Twickenham museum, a tiny house packed full of local interesting finds. We learnt about the history of the area and how Eel Pie island became famous in the sixties for having a great music scene. Famous bands, such as the Rolling Stones used to play there and it was also the home of British Blues music and Skiffle.

We crossed the bridge over to the island for a look around, sadly not much remains of where the music was played, however, we did make a visit to one of the most important inhabitants on the island – Trevor Bayliss, OBE. This inspiring man is well known as the inventor of the “wind up” radio. His workshop is truly amazing, it looks like something out of Roahl Dahl, with machines everywhere and strange objects lying around. He explained his “electric shoe” invention and told us how his inventions have helped needy people in the world – people living in poverty and with disabilities. Even though we were packed in the small space of his studio, we spent a good amount of time asking questions and enjoying the inspirational talk from The Inventor (as Trevor became known as) It was good to discover that this great man had been at school in Ealing – at Dormers Wells High School.

After lunch, back at Orleans house, we took part in a workshop around music and with the theme of the “Sixties”. Half the group were printing on textiles and making sixties inspired clothes and textiles. This was very popular. The other half were making musical instruments, based on what we had learnt about the “Skiffle” music and bands. Some made banjos, drums and double basses – all from recycled materials. We were also fortunate enough to have a real musician in attendance, who, both played and taught music on the guitar and banjo. This was a great hit and revealed some outstanding talent in the group.

Quotes from the day – “I really enjoyed meeting Trevor Bayliss, The Inventor. He is an OBE but still lives in that little house, even though he is rich!” Salma. Yr 8

“It is very inspiring to meet the Inventor, Trevor Bayliss. I am going to be an engineer.” – Dhiraj. Yr 9

“I really enjoyed playing the guitar. I want to learn.” – Maisa. Yr 6

“I enjoyed making the prints and musical instruments out of recycled wood.” – Veyanha – yr5

“I really enjoyed the printing – it was mega amazing!” – Nicole yr 8

All the young people enjoyed the day and commented on the highlights – seeing The Inventor, making the instruments and learning about the printing techniques. All in all, it was a fantastic day!

We hope to be able to link up with Richmond again, maybe during the next school holiday and hopefully at Hampton Court.

## **Day 2 Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February, at Horizons**

Ten young people ranging in ages from seven to sixteen came to Horizons today. The morning session was dedicated to study support and extra maths tuition was on offer.

As it was Pancake day we had fun making and tossing pancakes for lunch! Some good talents here for this traditional way of making pancakes!

Drumming sessions were on offer throughout the afternoon, with Jonny, our visiting drummer. The children were offered individual sessions learning skills in drumming using a full drum kit! This proved very popular and is an activity which compliments study sessions and learning games.

A group of six younger children went to visit the library next door to Horizons, where they learnt how a library works and what wonderful resources there are. Then, the group engaged in an activity of drawing fruit and healthy foods, round a table in the library, whilst at the same time playing a “memory game”. This showed how amazing some children can learn and remember things, while in a comfortable group and drawing at the same time! Food for thought here!

At the end of the session many of the children were so engaged, they did not want to leave the library and I had to entice them out!

### **Day 3 Cambridge!**

A trip to Cambridge is becoming the norm for our holiday programmes now. It is always very popular and this time we had a group of eighteen young people, aged from eleven to seventeen, together with two foster carers, one social worker and our new Lead Mentor, plus, of course the teachers, Claire and myself. We travelled by coach from Horizons and were on the road by 8.30 am. It was a lovely day.

Arriving at our destination, Selwyn college in Cambridge we were welcomed and met with other groups of young people who had travelled to Cambridge for the event – Election Day, how do politics work and how to conduct your own ballot.

The first session was a quiz, testing our knowledge on politics! Then we walked over to the grand dining hall at Selwyn, where we enjoyed a lovely three course lunch, eaten with under graduates seated along long wooden tables and over looked by oil paintings. Very grand!

During the afternoon we heard an inspirational talk by a Care Leaver, who is studying Law at Cambridge. He answered questions and spoke about his journey to Cambridge. Then we heard a lecture on the history of British politics by an actual Professor at Selwyn. I was proud of how well the group attended and engaged during the afternoon. They conducted their own election, based on school issues and were able to vote in a ballot. Candidates were invited to stand up and say what their party would offer and smaller groups discussed issues to vote on. Some extraordinary names came up for the parties – The Right Way Party, The Superior Party.....

Another great day in Cambridge and by seven pm we were all safely back in Hanwell.

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> – theatre trip to see Britain’s Best Recruiting Sergeant at the Unicorn theatre in London.**

A group of 13 young people, aged between 10 and 16, accompanied by two teachers and our Lead Mentor, gathered at Ealing Broadway station to travel by tube to Tower Bridge. From there we had a lovely walk across the bridge, taking in the Tower of London and the local sights. At the Unicorn theatre, which is on Tooley Street and specialises in theatre for young people, we were met by one of our out of borough children and her foster carer. It was good to see her again as she has recently moved and was a regular attender of Horizons and our trips. Good to know that she can still be in touch with us!

We started with a workshop, using the stage and auditorium and working with the production staff, we were skilfully introduced to the content of the play. This was one of the best drama workshops we have experienced, everyone was fully engaged and well prepared for the play.

After lunch – taken in the foyer of the Unicorn, we were seated in very good seats and enjoyed the experience of a play which included songs and music, showing a very talented small cast and ending on a very thought provoking note. Basically the play was about Vesta Tilley, a star of the musical theatre in the early 1900s. Vesta was reknown for her “trouser roles” where she dressed as a man and breaking all boundaries which constrained women at that time. When the war came along, she sang songs to help keep up the country’s morale and went on to actively recruit soldiers in her

shows. With clever use of backdrops and sound effects, we were taken into the trenches and to the horrors of the war.

Vesta went on to become very rich and she retired to the south of France, but we were reminded of what guilt might be on her mind when her thoughts turned to those soldiers. This led to a stimulating discussion!

We were back in Ealing, through the pouring rain, by 5.30 pm. This was a most enjoyable theatre trip with lots of points for learning as well as thought. I am sure we will be back at the Unicorn before too long!

## **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Horizons Day.**

In the morning we invited KS2 children to join us for sessions on games, both indoor and outdoor games, that could be learnt and played at home or with friends. A range of board games were on offer and a group of 8 children took part. Three of these children were new to Horizons. As the weather was fine, we were able to play outside and experimented on furthering our “memory games” - remembering lines, objects etc, whilst at the same time hoola hooping, skipping or throwing a loop at a target. Multi-tasking indeed! Games are always so popular and a great way to learn!

In the afternoon we offered study support and a chance to complete homework and catch up on maths tuition. We were joined by two year eleven students.

The final part of the session was one popular with all – making Pom Poms! This was a relaxing and rewarding activity enjoyed by all ages, combining skills in manual dexterity as well as creative enjoyment!

We had a request to learn knitting (from a year eleven!) and all took away their pom-poms and were able to make their own at home – and share with friends and families!

The end of another hectic – but fun filled half term!

**Sue Tarry – KS3 Teacher, Virtual School, Ealing LACET.**