

Appendix 1

Holiday and term time enrichment activities with the Ealing Virtual School

February 2021

Debate Mate continued with 6 sessions of on-line debating. Starting on 6th January, groups of children and young people from Brent, Harrow and Ealing took part in this weekly experience. Debate Mate is run by inspiring graduates, studying not only in the UK but abroad too, one was at Yale University. Seven young people aged from 14 -17 years took part from Ealing. Most were living out of Ealing and several had EHCPs. Friendships were made and many valuable debating skills were learnt. The final competition debate was held on Saturday 13th March.

Reading Clubs – this initiative was launched on February 22nd. Children from Brent, Harrow, Barnet and Ealing join together to read and discuss books on a monthly basis. The children are in 3 age groups with approximately 10 children in each group, supported by 3 virtual school teachers. Books were chosen by both teachers and the children. Quizzes and games were on offer to make the sessions fun.

Philosophy Club – started in February and offered 5 sessions of discussion and games, all aimed at giving children skills in making decisions, choices and considering all points of view. The age group was younger, in the primary phase age group. This has restarted now in May. Six children from Ealing joined those from Brent, Harrow and Barnet.

This **Easter** 14 children in the care of Ealing, took part in an amazing project, **We Belong!** This offered 5 days of online fun activities, working with writers, artists and poets alongside children from our neighbouring local authorities in Brent and Harrow. There were 30 children, all engaging with the online activities and working individually, showing their work using an online platform.

Each child had been sent a pack of art materials to prepare for the week's project. We Belong is run by a group of creative workers and is funded by the Co-op. Hopefully, later, we can show you examples of the work from the week. Some of the poetry is just lovely.

The age range for this project was from 11-18 years and those who took part were mainly aged from 11-15 years. We also had a care leaver who now helps manage the We Belong projects now. Many invites were sent out to foster carers to those who were able to access the project and we had a good response from Ealing.

May half term – continuation of We Belong. This will offer 2 days of online creativity, working with the poets and artists and producing a final "gallery" of all the work produced. On the final day there will be consultation and feedback by everyone involved.

June 6th – taster session for **Care to Dance**, new project from Oti Mabuse's studio. This will run on regular Saturdays from September.

July 19th – **Arvon Residential**, writing and performance workshops. 5 days in West Yorkshire.

Watch this space!

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