

Appendix 2

Autumn Term 2020 Enrichment Report

The We Belong project continues to offer on-line support in the arts for our young people. Currently the virtual school is linking up again with We Belong's Zine Collective project; a project encouraging young people to share thoughts, (called 'zines') and produce small booklets using art, poetry and graphics. The collective uses professional artists who will be working with our students

One of our care leavers now works in a consultative role for We Belong; working with both recruitment to the programme and to collect feed-back. Past students will be offered this opportunity again and those new to the project will be invited. This is planned to begin over the Christmas period.

This role reflects the changing approach of the virtual school mentoring programme, where care leavers work closely with the younger age group, taking part in projects and our continuing events with them. We are linking with Become, a national organisation which supports children in care and care experienced young people. Some of our young people who have asked to be involved and to do some voluntary work are being referred to a panel held by Become.

In October half term, we visited the Jamie's Farm site at Waterloo, where four Ealing children again living at some distance from Ealing, were able to take part in a wonderful experience at the city farm. As this was mainly outdoors, we were able to continue with this. We were booked to do some Saturday sessions at the Phoenix Outdoor Centre for orienteering and learning about water sports. This had to be cancelled due to adverse weather but is something we will be returning to in the future. The Strength in Horses project, a therapeutic programme, was able to go ahead up until the current lockdown, although with much reduced numbers. Two Ealing children took part and really enjoyed it. This will continue after the lock down.

These children have received reports from the providers on their progress at these projects and this is will be fed back to their schools. It is helpful feedback for schools to consider as some of these children do have difficulties in school. This evidence demonstrates that they have succeeded in engaging in these outdoor environments with animals and can help us understand the educational and emotional needs of our children, as well as help inform their schools.

During the autumn term we have replaced the Harrow School attendance with remote learning and have successfully maintained the high level of support through the online tuition scheme with independent schools, led by the Shaftesbury project from Harrow school.

An advantage of online tuition continues to be increased access to a broader group of students who live at distance from Ealing. The age range has widened too, initially students in years 10 and 11 attended, but now sessions include students in year 9 and above. There are currently 20 Ealing students taking part in this very popular and well-regarded scheme.

We continue to monitor the progress of the original Harrow group, who are now in Year 11 and who benefited from the sessions that took place at the school. We are optimistic that the initiative will impact this year's cohort GCSEs outcomes and grades. There are currently 12 students in year 11 taking part in the Harrow tuition programme. One of these students, a young man living outside of Ealing, has been receiving the Harrow tuition since year 10 and has done so well. He is now a school prefect and at his last school PEP meeting, the school asked if they could "clone" him! These students represent both young people living in Ealing and those out of borough and it is good to see that those that were unable to take part in the original sessions at Harrow are now able to be included.

One of the wider impacts with these projects has been individual support with 6th form applications. Year 11 students have requested a supporting letter to add to their 6th form school applications. As some of these students have been part of the Harrow school venture for nearly 2 years now, we have been in a good position to be able to speak positively about them and their excellent qualities as a student. This evidence came not only from the Virtual School, but also from the combined efforts of the Harrow project co-ordinator and the co-ordinator of the John Lyon's Charity enrichment activities with Ealing, Brent, Harrow and Barnet.

This has been an unplanned but welcome development which has grown out of the success of the project in engaging our students, from when they attended the original sessions at the school and now with the online tuition. It will now form an aspect of the continuing wrap around support and help with 6th form and college applications and something that we can discuss with our students.

The main subjects in demand are maths and science but there is a range being offered, including Japanese for a young man living in Kent. There are several students waiting to be matched with a tutor and we are working now with other independent schools, to carry on this fantastic work. These include Orley Park School and Notting Hill and Ealing High School, in Ealing.

Since the start of this involvement with Harrow School, over 40 young people have taken part, in both the actual session there and in the on-line tuition. Some of our care leavers have been able to help at sessions. One young man who obtained a level 9 in his GCSE maths came along to support some of the sessions. This will be recorded as a contribution to his community support programme, which will be part of his degree application.

Some of the care leavers have received tuition and there are young people coming into the programme to ensure they get the grades for university courses. Recently we have had 3 young people in year 13, now looking at moving on to degree courses and needing help to achieve their maths and English grades. Their requests have been speedily dealt with, one has taken his maths exam and is waiting to hear his results. This is a huge help as we know that often our young people need more time to achieve their potential. They may just miss the crucial grades in year 11 but are able to catch up by KS5.

The tutors are very empathic and have a wonderful way of engaging with the students – “I am so excited to be working with you” “I am happy to be working with you...” Their language is very positive and demonstrates to the students how they are valued.

We are starting the Thursday evening sessions again, using the same format of an hour of study support, with both teachers and 6th form boys, followed by an hour of an activity, such as debating, careers advice or even a quiz. This is a new venture as it is online and will offer the challenges of Microsoft Teams. A wide range of students, including those living at distance from Ealing (even one in Wales!) have been invited. We are hopeful that the younger ones in year 9 will engage with the programme and attend on a regular basis and the existing and alumni students who are now at University or about to go, will come back to keep in touch.

There is lots in the pipeline for expansion of our enrichment programme. We are working on plans which include setting up a book club with the John Lyon’s Charity group and contacting publishers to help us take this forward. We are

considering expanding our use of Letterbox so that we can reach more children. There is discussion on forming a philosophy group; going back to Debate Mate in the New Year and continuing our links with Brunel University for workshops.

The Booker Prize winning author, Bernadine Evaristo is the writer in residence at Brunel and we are planning some sessions there in the new year. We have also been in contact with MacMillan Books who now have the footballer, Marcus Rashford on board promoting literacy for children. Watch this space!

Sue Tarry, November 2020.