

# Summer newsletter

## 2023

Dear students, parents and carers,

Welcome to our summer newsletter! It has been a great term, with Post-19 having their first annual Sports Day at Wandsworth Park. It was a great success as all three hubs joined a morning of fun-filled fitness activities. Students showcased great sportsmanship through teamwork, cheering each other on and celebrating their achievements.

This term we have also forged new partnerships with work experience providers such as Cheam Library, Worcester Library, Oxfam Surbiton and Need2Succeed Croydon where students gain experience in the workplace and apply their communication skills across settings.

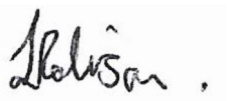
We are tremendously proud of our students and their hard work as they have all completed their Recognising and Recording Progress and Achievement (RARPA) qualification. We will be sharing the parent link with you before the end of term to access your young person's report and achievements.

This year we are saying goodbye to 6 students at Post-19. We are sad to see them leave and they will be greatly missed, but we are equally excited about their future. We wish them and their families all the best in this next chapter of their lives.

We are delighted to announce that the change of use for Hammersmith Hub has now been approved. Our facilities team will be working hard over the summer to complete renovation work, ready for students and staff to enjoy upon their return in September 2023. A huge thank you to parents, students and staff for your patience and support during this transition.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support during this year. I hope you and your family enjoy a well-deserved summer break and I look forward to welcoming students back on Wednesday, 6th September 2023.

Best Wishes,



Elizabeth Robinson  
Head of Post-19

### Term Dates

#### Autumn 2023

*INSET days: Friday 1st - Tuesday 5th September*

**Term starts: Wednesday 6th September**

**Half-term: Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October**

**Term ends: Thursday 21st December (12.30pm)**

#### Spring 2024

*INSET day: Friday 5th January*

**Term starts: Monday 8th January**

**Half-term: Monday 12th – Friday 16th February**

**Term ends: Thursday 28th March (12.30pm)**

# Summer newsletter

## 2023

### **Staffing update**

Elizabeth Robinson, Head of Post-19

Russell Irving, Deputy Head of Post-19

Sofia Rey, Consultant Behaviour Analyst

Nathalie Johansson, Pastoral Support Lead

Shelley Thomas, Senior Administrator and Admissions Officer

Francesca Sharkey, Post-19 Administrator

Chloe Watkins, Head of Therapies

Emma Engelbrecht, Speech and Language Therapist

Paschalis Terzidis, Speech and Language Therapist

Sarah Motto, Occupational Therapist

Georgios Tsimplinidis, Therapy Assistant

Fardowso Cabdiqaadir, Therapy Assistant

Georgie Harrison, Occupational Therapist

Ben Crane, Qualified Teacher

David Ssensula, Job Coach

### **Behaviour Analysts**

Melissa Wise, Raymond Ka Shing Chan, Rhianna Mobile

### **Instructors**

Lucy Martha Sanchez , Alice Ormerod, Ariela Spalla

### **Lead Teaching and Learning Mentors:**

Giuseppina Parla, Aline Brandao, Stephen Sylvester

### **New staff**

We have welcomed the following staff: Shelley Thomas, Petra Ligose, Michaela Klenzo, Maria Garrido

### **Leavers**

We are sadly saying goodbye to the following staff: Paraskevi Frangoulidou, Shane Finucane, Aliyat Animashun, Yee Ling Elaine Yu, Alice Ormerod, Fergus Simpson.

### **Admissions**

This term, we held 5 parent visits and have open days booked in monthly. Post-19 have received 16 Local authority consultations and 24 parental enquiries. Informal assessments are still ongoing for potential 2023/2024 places. We look forward to welcoming six new students in September!

### Updates from the Riverside Hub

Students in the Riverside hub had a lovely summer term filled with a variety of community activities. Our students continue to explore their interests through different work experience, leisure activities and enrichment activities organised by the Qualified Teacher and Teaching and Learning Mentors. We have been on trips to the museum, parks, shopping centres and cinemas in order to expand our students' interests. Our students also participated in work experience in different settings, such as a library, a charity shop, a perfume shop, a food market and a city farm. Our aim is to expand their interests as much as possible so they have the tools to make their choice for their future life.

In addition, they are all progressing through their IEP targets to make sure they are following the curriculum. Our Mentors plan the day with their students and make sure all of the targets are being implemented within the activities, so that they can practise the targets in the natural environment. We are all very proud of them!



### Updates from the Wandsworth Hub

What a fantastic last term we have had at Wandsworth Hub! All students have been working really hard on their targets; we have secured new work-experience placements at a farm, library and in an office that students have been attending weekly. A big focus this term was on communication; and with the help of SaLT we have seen a drastic improvement across the whole hub.

Additionally, we have been working on peer interaction and students have loved exploring leisure activities together. We sadly say goodbye to 4 great students who are on to their post 25 settings; they will be greatly missed!



### Updates from the Hammersmith Hub

This term we focused on using public transport, doing exercise outdoors and cooking healthy food. Many students are now using public transport with their Mentors to get to their activities: gym, swimming lessons and music sessions. It was great to see them getting more independent in using oyster cards and tolerating busy locations.

To make the best of the nice weather, fitness classes were planned in different outdoor gyms both with other students and with their Mentors. It was a great opportunity to access new locations and to teach personal care targets like applying deodorant.

This term students joined a music school in Shepherd's Bush. They have played different instruments, sung together and followed their teacher's instructions. It's a great opportunity for them to socialise and interact with each other.

Last but not least, this term students have expanded their cooking skills making themselves fruit salads and baking healthy desserts. Students went to the shop to choose their favourite fruits, before going back to the Hub to wash and cut the fruit before mixing all together. Others have been developing their baking skills learning how to use measuring cups before enjoying their creations on the patio.



### A word from the charity

#### Tracie Linehan, CEO

I'm sure I state this at the end of every academic year - wow! What a year! And what a summer term!

I've had the honour of reading all the Karen Sorab Award nominations. All of our learners are truly amazing and the nominations in recognition of stand-out progress across the year is an absolute delight.

We are leading autism education, working hard to be at the forefront of outstanding practice, with outstanding staff, ensuring that each and every pupil is accessing an education that drives towards their aspirations and goals. This has been demonstrated time and again this year:

- Early Years delivering sessions to over 50 families, piloting nursery provision, encouraging families to join some amazing trips and holding a 5-year celebration with families past and present.
- Park House cementing the Ofsted Outstanding judgement
- Tram House School ensuring that pupils have destination maps underpinning community access, work experience, development of communication and independence skills



- Tram House Sixth Form establishing a calm and dynamic learning environment at their new premises in Roehampton
- Post-19 increasing community access for learners, culminating in an exciting sports day last week.
- Research and Learning delivering outreach, training and resources to over 5000 people and winning a national award for our Employability Toolkit.

All of the above has been supported and enhanced by excellent teams in Finance, HR, Marketing & Comms, Facilities and Fundraising.

I look forward to seeing you in September and hope that you will get actively involved in the consultation process for the 2025-2030 strategy.

## Recent funding successes and updates

As ever, it's been a busy and interesting term raising money for our services. Here are a few recent highlights from the fundraising team:

- **Fundraising Committee**

In what has been a difficult couple of years for fundraising, as we approach the final quarter of our current financial year, we are planning to form a Fundraising Committee in support of BeyondAutism's vision and objectives. The fundraising department has completed many successful initiatives over recent years, and we are excited to now seek out a select group of members who can continue to bring good ideas to the table and help roll these out. Trustee, Roz Bristowe, will be spearheading the initiative.

- **Early Years' Summer Fete**

On the 17th June 2023 we held our first Early Years' Summer Fete. We wanted to celebrate 5 years of Early Years by inviting past and present families to a celebration held at our Bromley centre. The fete got off to a great start with all the children making a beeline for the bouncy castle. Once they were all jumped out, there was a lot more to enjoy, and the kids had fun dancing to music, playing with bubbles, drawing with chalk on the concrete, decorating biscuits and getting a little wet in the sand and water play. Not to forget playtime with a select few favourite toys to remind them of their best days at Early Years. It was fantastic to see so many familiar faces and see how our not-so-little-now alumni have grown since leaving us. Thank you to all the staff who volunteered their Saturday to make this event the success it was. We were overjoyed by the interest in the event and are already planning the next, stay tuned for summer 2024!





- **Climate Change project**

Mike Calver (Director of Fundraising and Development) and James Smith (Head of Facilities) met with the preferred providers SustainQuality from City Bridge Trust eco audits to discuss our needs across the services. They have provided a report to City Bridge Trust who will get back to us hopefully with an agreement to carry out and pay for the eco audits across our services.

- **Remembering Eval**

We are deeply grateful for the generous contributions made in memory of Eval Thompson. Eval was an autistic IT Support Technician at HFH Healthcare and was known for his dedication, talent, and commitment to making a difference. Having sadly passed away, Eval's colleagues, friends and family initiated a fundraising campaign that raised over £5k in his memory, and we are delighted they have chosen BeyondAutism as the organisation to receive these funds. This donation will support our ongoing efforts to improve employment prospects for autistic learners with the launch of our new programme, the Employability Curriculum, following the success of the Employability Toolkit. Thank you for honouring Eval's life in such a meaningful way.



### Upcoming events:

- **Royal Parks Half Marathon**

With all 15 places filled for the run, we have secured a further 5 places which we are confident we can fill. This would be the highest number of runners we've had competing in this regular event taking place in October. If you would be interested in taking part, don't hesitate to get in touch!

- **Carol Concert**

After the incredible success of the first event in 2022, the Carol Concert will be back for another year. We are planning on holding it in November/December 2023.

- **Annual Quiz**

Our Annual Quiz is returning to its usual place in the calendar and is planned to be held next April/May 2024 giving you plenty of time to brush up on your obscure facts and quiz knowledge!

As always, if you would like to get involved with supporting BeyondAutism, please get in touch with us at [fundraising@beyondautism.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@beyondautism.org.uk).

Wishing everyone a lovely summer break!

**The Fundraising Team**

**BeyondAutism Professional Conference**

This year we held our professional conference in person for the first time, on 20th and 21st June, at the University of Suffolk.

Our theme, around the realities of inclusion of autistic and disabled individuals in society, brought together a unique mix of researchers, practitioners and those with lived experience. This resulted in an event that delved deep into the theme across multiple sections of society with a focus on what changes we can make to improve the situation.

With over 50% of our speakers bringing their own lived experiences, it led to some great discussions: how real is the picture we have of inclusion? Why is the system set up so that to get support you need an assessment or diagnosis? How can we make the huge cultural and mindset shift so that we see difference as a positive, and have environments that are set up to enable all to succeed?

You can read more about the event, and register your interest in attending 2024 on our conference website: [beyondautism.org.uk/professionals/events/professional-conference/conference-2023/](https://beyondautism.org.uk/professionals/events/professional-conference/conference-2023/)



**Have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you in September!**