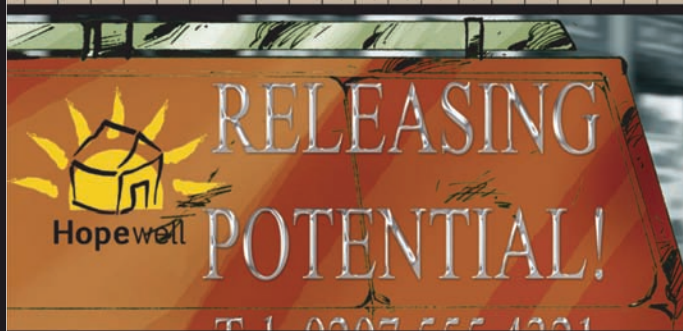


HolibrookTimes

Holibrook House and Hopewell School

Annual Magazine 2009



***In Harmony
at Forum***

***Ofsted
validation***



***Congratulations from the
Prime Minister***

***Independent school
gains its independence***

From the CEO

Welcome to this edition of Holibrook Times.

The past year has delivered some exciting changes and developments to the services we offer. 2009 brought the relocation of the school from Holibrook House to Harmony House in Dagenham and the opening of the new school at Brockley. We also celebrated our homes exceptional Ofsted inspection reports and pressed ahead with ongoing improvements to the facilities. In the meantime, Holibrook 16+ service has established itself as a sought after and premier resource.

This magazine is designed to give you a flavour of the organisation's ethos and the achievements of our residents and learners. In the coming year we look forward to building on our accomplishments for the benefit of our young people and staff.

Further exciting developments are planned in 2010. These will enable us to expand and improve our service to all those who live and learn with us, as we strive to restore hope, release potential and rebuild lives.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herman Allen', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Herman Allen CEO

Holibrook House receives congratulations from the Prime Minister



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA
www.number10.gov.uk



Holibrook House, Monteagle, the first home established within the group, was rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted in its two inspections this year. Prime Minister Gordon Brown congratulated the home on its outstanding achievement (through a letter from his Diary Secretary). The rating is an endorsement of the excellent standard of care that the organisation provides for young people.

"He (the Prime Minister) would also like to offer his congratulations on your recent Ofsted report."

QUOTE FROM LETTER

The Ofsted Inspection Framework judged the home to be outstanding in all six categories. Of the 72 children's homes in the greater London area, only 4 others have achieved an overall rating of outstanding, of these it is not known how many, if any, achieved it in all six categories. Ofsted remarked in their June 2009 inspection report:



"All areas are now assessed as outstanding. Staff and management have worked hard to improve practice to a level which is considered a beacon for other homes."

Young people celebrate with staff on being graded outstanding

Independent school gains independence



HOPEWELL SCHOOL, which commenced its journey in 2006 as part of the home at Holibrook House, Strathfield Gardens in Barking, moved away from the home in 2009, to Harmony House in Dagenham. The move to Harmony House enabled the school to provide improved and expanded facilities and freed up space in the home for improvements planned for 2010. The school is now registered for 33 learners compared with the 10 learners at Holibrook House.

The new facilities were officially opened by the Mayor of Barking and Dagenham on 1st May. The learners at the school led the programme and rendered an outstanding performance. As an integrated part of Harmony

House the school has access to the conference rooms, sacred space and catering facilities. In addition to offering school places to young people from Holibrook House children's homes, the move opens the resource to young people with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) from Barking and Dagenham, as well as a range of other Local Authorities across inner and outer London.

Living and learning

- Outstanding Achievements: all learners on roll to the school achieved Asdan Bronze Awards within 3 months
- Attendance for specific learners improved from 20% to 100%
- The School's first residential trip was a resounding success.



In Harmony at Forum

In a true spirit of partnership working, Hopewell School hosted a Partnership Forum attended by key leaders from several Local Authorities. The aim of the forum was to develop a working protocol between the school and the local authority. Learners from the school officially opened the forum with a thought-provoking dialogue



Taking the Initiative

Holibrook House at Strathfield Gardens acted as host to neighbours in an attempt to bring greater understanding and awareness of the service offered. This event presented an opportunity for the young people living at Strathfield Gardens to meet with their neighbours; and it is an example of an initiative taken to give the young people a chance to achieve and relate positively to their community, and to demonstrate their hospitality. Is it any wonder that in the recent Ofsted inspection report Strathfield Gardens was rated outstanding in the area of 'Enjoying and Achieving'?

Words of wisdom

We are thankful for our lives because at the dawn of each day there is hope for change. We should all try our best to do to others as we would like them to do unto us.

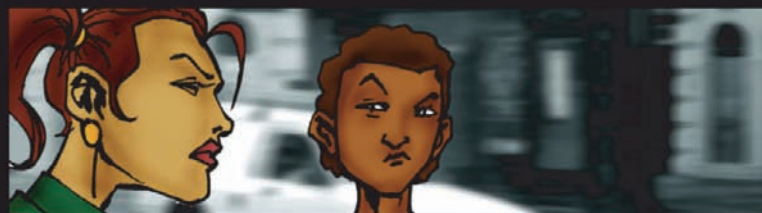
We should all learn to value our individuality because there is no one else like you.

May we all continue to grow in wisdom and understanding as we express love, because true love conquers all fear.

The power of fear keeps people bounded but the power of true love liberates.

By R. A (Student Social Worker - Holibrook)





Eventually...

WOW! WE DID IT! YOU CAN GET BACK TO YOUR PS3 NOW!

Hey, THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN VIDEO GAMES, YOU KNOW?

REBUILDING LIVES CARE HOME

TEL: 0208 151 2

I DIDN'T REALLY THINK IT WAS POSSIBLE. JUST GOES TO SHOW, EH?

WRIGHT

7

YOUR RIGHT TOM! THERE'S MUCH MORE LOCKED AWAY WITHIN EACH OF US THAN WE COULD EVER IMAGINE!

HEY, I ALWAYS KNEW WE COULD DO IT. NEVER DOUBTED IT FOR ONE SECOND!
... Two, maybe...

LOCKED AWAY IN EACH OF US IS THE POTENTIAL TO CHANGE THE WORLD!

Youth Speak Out

*I cry because
I miss you*

I cry because I miss you
And I hope and pray you miss
me too!
You were gone so quick
Not a chance to say bye
But I know your life's better up there
in the sky
If I can form stairs with the tears I cry
I'll come see you quickly for the
last time

By M W (Young Person – Hopewell School)

Standing Tall

Every challenge in my life
will help me grow,
Every problem I encounter
Will strengthen my mind and soul.
Every trouble I will overcome
will increase my understanding of
my life,
When troubles weigh heavy
for peace I will strive.
Life's hardship
will not make me fall,
I will remember that beneath all
the sadness
I will still stand tall.

By R. Q (Young Person - Holibrook)

Out of the mouths of babes!

'...my behaviour improved...'
"...don't fight anymore..."
'...now I think before I act...'
'...took part in the launch and forum...'
'...achieved my Asdan Bronze award..."
"...helped sick & disabled animals"
'...tried very hard to stop swearing...'
(Quotes from Young Learners at Hopewell School)

A Thankful Resident

I have experienced a lot of ups
and downs in my life, but living at
Monteagle House has allowed me to
live a normal life like others. Monteagle
House gives me hope and the strength
to change my ways and live my life to
the fullest.

The house is not like other homes
I have been to: the staff that work
here care about us and it feels like I'm
wanted. They treat us like their own
kids it makes me feel very special.

This is the best care home I have
been to since being in care. I am very
happy to be living in Monteagle House.

By T. M (Young Person – Holibrook)

Speaking of Speaking Out

Holibrook young people spoke out this
year in a film they participated in, to be
used as a guide for new residents.

Ofsted validation

The following statements are collated from recent Ofsted inspection reports for homes and school:



'...all young people are attending some form of education...where appropriate educational resources cannot be found, the organisation has provided sessions at the organisation's school at a cost to itself...'



'...young people say...good place to live...home is refuge from problems in community...individual needs met in area of their life.'



'...Social worker says... 'I have no hesitation in recommending this unit... very satisfied with care...'



'...Provision for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is focused soundly on the aims of the school to promote students' confidence and build their self esteem...'



'...clear curriculum policy and schemes of work which show that the curriculum is broad and balanced, providing learning opportunities in each of the required areas of learning.'

A parent's view:

...best half term at school and home...in last 8 years... a lot calmer. ..he is once again excited about aspects at school, even the subjects ..used to find "boring" ...school keep in touch and with regular/daily feedback making it much easier to speak with and deal with any issues ... may have at that time thus stopping any problems from growing.

A Professional's view:

... experience of the staff at Hopewell has been more than positive... everybody... very passionate about their work and very committed to the students....

New school in Bartram Road

Holibrook House, Bartram Road, obtained DCSF registration for an onsite school, Hopewell School (Bartrams) offering 5 places. This fulfils a key objective of the organisation to provide the opportunity for access to education to all the young people in residence. Hopewell School, Bartram Road will work in close conjunction with Hopewell School – Harmony House



Southwark Ruling

Holibrook have always been of the view that sixteen-plus semi-independent facilities should be of a high standard with appropriate support. This has proven to be the correct approach as our 16+ places have been in high demand this year. The Southwark Ruling, which obliges the local authority to accommodate 16+ young people who present as homeless, is likely to increase the demand. This year we added an emergency bed to the existing facilities.



Contributing positively

Learners at Hopewell School now participate in volunteer work and demonstrate compassion and care for sick, disabled and abused animals at the Hopewells Animal Sanctuary on Saturdays in the summer.



Giving hope to CLiPE

Holibrook/Hopewell has stepped up its sponsorship of CLiPE this year, as one of only two main sponsors. CLiPE stands for 'Child Labour Intervention Prevention and Education' and aims to educate children as a way of giving them an opportunity to escape their desperate poverty. In addition the charity supports approximately 200 of the most needy families in the village.

In the autumn term the learners further excelled in leading a fundraising campaign to support CLiPE (Kenya).

Donations can be made to:

'CLiPE c/o Holibrook'

LloydsTSB sort code: 309897

account number: 18025568.



Children's homes

www.holibrookhouse.co.uk

Holibrook House: Monteagle Avenue, Barking

Holibrook House: Strathfield Gardens, Barking

Holibrook House: Bartram Road, Brockley

16+ Home: Holibrook House: Matlock, Leyton



Schools

www.hopewellschool.co.uk

Hopewell School: Harmony House,

Baden Powell Close, Dagenham

Hopewell School: Bartram Road, Brockley



Fostering agency

www.homesteadfostering.co.uk

Homestead fostering:

Unit 170 Lee Valley Technopark Ashley Road

Tottenham London N17 9LN

Head Office:

Unit 170,

Lee Valley Technopark,

London,

N17 9LN,

tel 020 8880 4044

fax: 020 8880 4043

For more information

contact: Yvonne Miller

(Service Manager) at

the Head Office.