



Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming October 2018

LATEST NEWS

2017/18 results for Croydon students

2017/18 results for Croydon students this year have been positive again. Our provisional results show that pupils have performed better than pupils nationally in the phonics screening check, in the 'good level of development' outcome at the end of the early years foundation stage and 'achieving the expected standard' outcome at the end of both key stages one and two.

Un-validated outcomes in our key stage 4 (GCSE) show that results have improved with a greater percentage of our pupils getting a grade 9 – 4 in both mathematics and English. At key stage 5 (A level) our results have remained steady and our vocational results remain extremely positive.

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Primary and Secondary School Admissions for September 2019

This is the time of year again when parents/carers have to take the necessary steps to ensure their child secures a primary (Reception), Year 3 - transfer from infant to junior school - or secondary (Year 7) school place for September 2019.

Every year, the school admissions team ensures that the communication about the deadlines is advertised as widely as possible so parents/carers do not miss out on the opportunity to apply and be considered for one of their preferred schools in the initial round of allocations. The Decaux posters displayed around the borough, the use of social media and an article in the October edition of 'Your Croydon' magazine are just some of the means of communication used to spread the message to parents/carers.

In readiness for 1 September 2018 which marked the official date when parents can start making their application on the eadmissions site at eadmission.org.uk, the school admissions team worked closely with the Behaviour Change Hub and the local authority's Comms team to make improvements to the education pages of the Council's website www.croydon.gov.uk/education/schools-new/school-admissions.

The aim was to improve the website's contents and its usability by reducing the number of links needed to find relevant information, simplifying the wording and eliminating unfamiliar terms that may confuse users, and reducing the volume of information which unnecessarily increases the effort.

We would welcome your views – comments and suggestions of improvement – on our service and will use your feedback to improve service delivery.

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Feedback can be provided in the following ways:

- Emailing school.admissions@croydon.gov.uk or niora.amani@croydon.gov.uk
- Using the 3 star rating at the bottom of the webpages

Contact Officer: denise.bushay@croydon.gov.uk

Staying Put Arrangements – revised policy and new rates for Croydon Foster Carers

The Staying Put arrangements policy has been reviewed in response to care leaver, carer and Ofsted feedback. Staying put arrangements ensure young people, if they wish to, can remain with their former foster carers until they are prepared for adulthood and can experience a transition akin to their peers. Staying Put is an entitlement for care leavers from ages 18-21 years and the Council's aim is to increase the number of arrangements in place to help prepare care leavers for independence. The revised policy includes increased Staying Put rates for carers with enhanced rates for carers entering into arrangements with vulnerable care leavers and those with disabilities. Carers entering into an arrangements will also receive an exemption from council tax payments if the Croydon care leaver has a Staying Put arrangement anywhere in England. The new policy and rates will be effective from 1 October 2018 with the changes communicated to Care leavers, foster carers and social workers as part of the launch.

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DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

As previously mentioned a Partnership Task and Finish Group has created a Croydon Partnership Early Help Strategy and Delivery Plan which has been developed across the partnership that will enable us to provide a joined up effective early help offer for our children and their families. This will be delivered on a locality multi-agency evidence based model through a shared partnership approach to delivering universal and early help services. This model is closely aligned with the Council's development of a prevention approach that meets communities' needs. The Strategy will be implemented in a phased approach commencing in autumn 2018.

The strategy will align with Croydon's ambition to move towards a new operating model that is focussed on delivering prevention and early help in localities, where there is a better understanding of the child and family so that the right help is provided at the right time.

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0-25 SEND Strategy

Croydon commissioned a review of SEN (2017) the outcome of which included the views of stakeholders and informed the development of a draft SEN Strategy.

The Children's & Families Act introduced greater involvement of parents/carers and a focus on the pathway to adulthood and outcomes for children and young people with special educational needs and disability. Croydon's SEND Strategy sets out a vision for these children which has high aspirations for young people and aims to provide education, health and care to support independence and employment in or near the young person's community in Croydon.

Croydon's SEND Strategy will be consulted on during October and November 2018 and Cabinet approval of the SEND Strategy will be sought in January 2019. The Strategy will drive practice, the involvement of parents/carers and young people in decision-making and the development of local pathways and provision over the coming three years.

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Summer fun for Children in Croydon's care

Croydon Council successfully bid for £360k of funding from the Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government (MHCLG) and Department for Education (DfE) as part of the Controlling Migration Fund (CMF) earlier this year. The funding will support UASC fostering stability and education support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC) for a 2-year period from May 2018.

Part of the fund was used to set up a summer school to ensure that UASC 15-18 year olds are school-ready and show greater confidence in accessing education/employment and training opportunities.

The summer school programme ran from 2nd July- 31st August 2018. Around 140 young people aged 15-18 living and accessing services in Croydon registered for the summer school. The school provided ESOL classes (English for Speakers of Other Languages); accredited courses; life skills courses; sports and arts activities; farm stay; trips to UK landmarks and/or activities with non-UASC young people. Local partners from the voluntary sector helped deliver the programme in different locations throughout the borough and in central London locations.

Young people were particularly fond of their stay in the farm and said:



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I remember that on Jamie's Farm I am enjoying myself. I am confident using more English, and I am brave and hardworking around the animals. When I leave Jamie's Farm I will have fun and talk more in English. I will find green spaces to relax. (x)

On Jamie's Farm I am comfortable, relaxed and making new friends. When I leave Jamie's Farm I will start college, I will help others and speak more English. (Y)

They also built an amazing ideal city with plenty of green spaces during their art and drama classes as shown below



Children in Care Council

The Improvement Team have been working closely with the Youth Engagement Team to get feedback from our looked after children about their experiences and how we can improve our services.

We took along this new child friendly feedback form to the last children in care council on the 11th September and are developing recommended actions and next steps based on what they told us and their ideas.

Your Voice Matters

Circle the face that matches how you feel about the next 3 questions and if you would like to provide more information why not turnover

My social worker/Personal Advisor tells me what is going on and why?

I am involved in the plans for my future?

My Social Worker/Personal Advisor knows me well?

We would love to know why you choose those smiley faces!

What's working well?

It was able to move house this summer.

What's not working well?

Nothing. At school a child found out I was in foster care because my teacher was sent an e-mail which she read.

Suggestions?

That we're allowed to do a bit more according to our status and not give special treatment at school.

Contact Officer: Kerry.crichlow@croydon.gov.uk



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Croydon Music and Arts

We have been successful in gaining funding to develop Croydon's Cultural Education Partnership over the next three. We are able to develop a number of strands:

- We shall continue the work of the Croydon Youth Arts Collective, including the takeover at the Clocktower on 3 November. Next year we have booked a day at Fairfield!
- Over the next three months we are piloting music and spoken word projects in two primary schools for Learning through the Arts. This builds on Professor Anne Bamford's report on last year's projects. We shall be working with the schools to develop ways that cultural learning can support children facing disadvantage and using our membership of the Royal Society of Arts Evidence Champions Network to provide evidence to apply for funding to roll it out more widely.
- We shall be running a Creative Careers roadshow linked to the council's Choose Your Future initiative.



We are part of the #croydonrising campaign culture initiatives, including the new internship and traineeships programme, a new Youth Arts Fund and the Music City research. We are joining up Music City with the development of practical music making in schools. We are about to receive Professor Martin Fautley's evaluation of our programmes in five primary and three secondary schools

Croydon's Rap Club has been invited to perform at the Music for Youth Proms at the Royal Albert Hall on 6th November.

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Summer 2018 Programme

Summary

The Summer 2018 programme offered young people in Croydon the chance to take part in a wide range of free activities during the school holidays. Through a combination of fun and skills-based sessions, young people were given the chance to record music, build their skills in public speaking, participate in youth-led discussion and debate, learn life-skills such as cooking, pitch their business concepts and turn their ideas into reality as part of a busy and memorable summer.

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In addition to projects taking place in established local youth hubs such as the Samuel Coleridge Taylor, Goldcrest and Winterbourne youth centres, targeted outreach pop-up sessions took place in several of the borough's parks such as Grange Park and Wilford Road, Wandle, Melfort Park, Walton Green, Fieldway.

Key engagement statistics across the programme.

Throughout the summer programme **11 pop-up and park sessions** were held with **314 young people** aged 8+ engaging. In addition, **16 projects** were offered with **338 young people** taking part.



Partners

Supporting the youth engagement team in delivering both pop-ups, parks and projects were a number of partner organisations such as: CDI (pictured), the Sexual Health Outreach Team, Turning Point, Palace for Life Foundation, Safer London, Music Klub, Good Wolf People, Good Food Matters, Gifted Enterprise, Kinetika Bloco, OnSide Youth Zones, White Hut Studios, John Ruskin College, ENGIE, Croydon College, LLC, Princes Trust, JACE training, Sutton and District, Capel Manor.

Highlights & Feedback

Throughout this summer's programme, a number of highlights are worthy of noting:

- The first running of the Croydon Young Mayor's Fund saw **10 young people** involved in getting funding for three projects focused on safety, knife crime and mentoring.
- Croydon Means Business, saw **16** young people's entrepreneurial spirit come to the fore as young people ran their own business ideas with some turning a profit!
- Over **70** young people participated in projects related to the arts in music and drama.
- Over **40** members of the youth forums and children in care council continued to project the voice of young people in Croydon and attended a trips programme throughout August.
- Wandle Park and North End remained as the locations with the highest footfall of young people, with over **150** engaged as part of outreach and GCSE results engagement.



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WORKING WITH PARTNERS

Events – Promoting adult learning

On September 6th CALAT ran a successful open day at Croydon Clocktower, promoting the service and adult learning, aiming to increase enrolments for the coming academic year. Throughout the day a large number of the public came along to ask questions about our curriculum and make enrolment enquiries. The events are a fantastic opportunity to meet our customers and showcase the great courses that CALAT offer.



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On Sunday 9th September the annual Thornton Heath festival took place along the high street and this year CALAT were there to promote the service right in the heart of the community. Great weather ensured a good time was had by all and the wide range of people CALAT staff spoke to demonstrated how valuable our presence is within the area.

IT upgrade supporting digital skills and adult learning

Croydon's adult learners can now benefit from the latest technology, helping them to develop the necessary skills for today's digitalised workplace and increase their employability.

With funding from Croydon Council and the Mayor of London, Croydon Adult Learning & Training (CALAT) has upgraded its ICT equipment and Wi-Fi access right across its curriculum network, enabling tutors to embed ICT skills and electronic learning into all courses. This project has delivered 217 new PCs and 60 laptops with all printers to be replaced in the future as part of a council wide initiative. Students can now work paper-free and complete learning online.

Croydon Council contributed over £247,000 to the project and the Mayor of London £200,000, following CALAT's successful bid to the Mayor's small project and capital equipment fund.

Focus on residents in New Addington

CALAT has been part of the fabric of Croydon for over 70 years offering adults in the borough a wide range of courses for work or leisure.

The survey has been created to find out what the residents of New Addington and surrounding areas know about CALAT and what courses you would like to see offered at the New Addington Centre in the future.

The Survey closes on Friday 9 November 2018.

<https://getinvolved.croydon.gov.uk/survey/743>