



# Children, Young People and Learning Cabinet Member Bulletin Councillor Alisa Flemming April 2019

## LATEST NEWS

### Children’s Improvement Journey - Ofsted confirm we are making progress in children’s social care

As mentioned in my last bulletin Ofsted Inspectors were on site 19/20 February for their 5 Monitoring Visit. The official letter setting out progress to date was published on 14 March – please see link to the letter published on 14 March.

<https://files.api.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50062794>

I am proud of the commitment of officers and front line staff whose hard work is starting to make a measurable difference. Under Rob and Nick’s leadership staff are working hard to consolidate and build on the progress that has been recognised by inspectors.



Contact Officer; [Kerry.crichlow@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Kerry.crichlow@croydon.gov.uk)

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## School Admissions: National Secondary Offer Day – 1 March 2019

1 March 2019 marked an important day for parents who had children transferring to secondary school in September 2019.

This year, the School Admissions Team processed 4728 on-time applications for Croydon residents which represent a 3% increase from last year. Despite the increase, 63% of applicants (2,976 pupils) were offered a space at their first preference school; this is up by 1% from last year. This means that nearly two thirds of secondary school pupils in Croydon have been offered a place at their first preference school for the September 2019 intake.

Parents had until 15 March to accept or decline their offer and after this date any declined places were reallocated to applicants who are on the waiting list for their most preferred schools. This will be another opportunity for parents to receive a higher preference school and the School Admissions Team will continue to improve on any offer that was originally made until 31 August 2019.

Contact Officer; [Shelley.davies@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Shelley.davies@croydon.gov.uk)

## Youth Engagement: The Good Citizenship Awards



The Good Citizenship Awards (GCA) is an annual project run by the Youth



Engagement Team in primary schools across Croydon. The project is specifically aimed at Year 6 pupils. The awards celebrate the positive contribution that young people make to their schools, peer groups, families and communities. It aims to build the confidence of those students taking part and support resilience throughout the next part of their academic journey. The team work together with schools to identify year 6 students that may need support with their transition to secondary schools, recognise and reward the personal and social development of young people as they take an active role in their communities. The team deliver an interactive assembly about being a 'Good Citizen' and award winners are invited to a final ceremony with the Mayor where they receive a medal and certificate. There is also

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an opportunity for schools to receive the GCA School Shield for work in supporting good citizenship in any wider school projects.

So far this year 20 schools have registered to take part.

Any schools wishing to book an interactive assembly for March should email [Karen.morgan@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.morgan@croydon.gov.uk)



## **Croydon Foster Carers Dinner and Awards**

I have just made this up as obviously the event hasn't happened yet!!!

Please feel free to amend

I was delighted to attend the Croydon Foster Carers Dinner and Awards ceremony on Friday 15 March. The event began with a reception where the Mayor, Leader, Cabinet Members, Senior Officers and Foster Carers were entertained by a performance from the BRIT School. It was a pleasure to open the celebration and following more performances and a superb meal the awards and certificates were presented. There were 6 categories; 10 year Certificates; 20 year Awards, Retirement Award, Commitment Award, Staff Nomination and Child's Nomination. I was honoured to present the Commitment Award to Martin Williams who you may remember received an MBE in January 2018 in recognition for his services to children and he is an active member of our Corporate Parenting Panel.

The evening finished with a lively disco enjoyed by all. I hope that this will be an annual event.

## **Croydon Music and Arts**

### **Giving Children and Young People a Voice through the Arts**

Working with the council's culture team and a consortium of partners Croydon has been successful in winning a large scale bid from the Arts Council's Youth Performance Partnership Fund. This is a grant of £1m over a 3 year period and there have been 5 such awards nationally with one in each of the regions – we are the successful bid from London.

We have an excellent range of partners in the consortium that has come together to build this bid. Its aim is to engage young people in the performing arts, largely theatre, and to focus on young people who are not currently engaging in the arts. Our partners include Fairfield Halls, Talawa Theatre Company, Savvy Theatre Company, the Brit School, Legacy Youth Zone, Oasis Academy Ryelands and Meridian High School.

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The programme will include work across all Croydon schools, some out of school programmes in three neighbourhoods, South Norwood, New Addington and Thornton Heath and bringing together activity in Fairfield.

At the heart of our bid is helping children and young people to “develop and discover their interests and talents” (a quote from the new Ofsted framework), to engage parents and carers in supporting their children through “recognition of the importance of culture and identity for families and young people” (one of the key priorities for Croydon’s violence reduction unit), and to provide many of the protective factors for children and young people’s mental health (which are detailed in the DfE guidance for schools in November 2018).

Plans also include providing pathways for young people into the creative industries in collaboration with Croydon’s new Cultural Enterprise Zone.

## **Providing a platform for young artists at The Ends Festival**

Croydon Music and Arts is working with Metropolis and Live Nation to curate a Youth Stage at The Ends Festival, from 31 May to 2 June in Lloyd Park. The festival’s ethos is to create opportunities for the local area and celebrate the diversity, culture and talent of Croydon.

We are recruiting young musicians from around Croydon to perform on a smaller stage which will run alongside the main stage across the festival. Performers will be given slots in between the main stage artists and will showcase a range of styles and genres.

We aim to platform and celebrate the best of Croydon’s emerging young talent as this new festival lands in our borough.

## **CALAT Apprenticeships**

CALAT is powering ahead with its Apprenticeships programme with the following opportunities either completed or with people in place:

- 6 Teaching Assistant apprenticeships in Croydon Schools- includes upskilling existing staff and a new job created.
- 8 completed apprentices in Business Administration and Customer Service for Croydon Council- all new jobs created.
- 13 apprentices currently on programme for Croydon Council- mostly all new jobs created and 1 upskilling existing staff.
- 13 L3 and L5 Leadership and Management apprenticeships for existing staff.
- Recruitment sessions for the next cohort of CPD Apprenticeships to Croydon Council staff are underway, with new starts in May and October 2019.

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## **2019 Celebration of Achievement**

Following on from the success of last year's event, nominations have opened for the 2019 Celebration of Achievement awards taking place on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We are hoping to achieve the same success as 2018 where learners and staff really came together to celebrate their achievements and the service.

## **David Lean Cinema**

CALAT has produced an advert which is now live and played before screenings at the David Lean cinema, the ad can be viewed on YouTube via the following link:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3jPwBgApto>

## **CALAT collaborative AEB bid with London Learning Consortium and Sutton College**

CALAT successfully contributed to London Learning Consortium's GLA bid for funding between 2019/20 – 2023/24. If the bid to the GLA is successful CALAT will receive £80,000 per academic year to deliver programmes to progress Family Learning adults onto mainstream accredited programmes as well as ALDD learners onto employment pathways and into employment. We should have confirmation in April 2019.

## **CALAT Curriculum planning 2019/20**

CALAT had a really productive 2019/20 curriculum planning day on 4 March 2019. The main focus of the day was to ensure that the Curriculum offer for 2019/20 meets the needs of our residents and the priorities in the Skills for Londoners strategy and South London and Croydon borough strategies.

The 2019/20 curriculum offer includes a focus on improving CALAT's blended learning/distance learning offer for maths and English, Languages as well as to support the delivery of Apprenticeships.

For adult learners with learning difficulties or disabilities (ALDD) - the service will be introducing a new English accredited course which will focus on Debating skills and History, a new Maths course which will explore International cookery to develop learners maths skills and a Creativity Community learning course which is entitled Mind, Body and Soul which focusses on mindfulness and healthy living. All of the above enhances the current successful curriculum provision which continues to meet the needs of Croydon's residents and address skills gaps. CALAT 2019/20 brochures and enrolment will be launched on Monday 17 June 2019.