



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

LATEST NEWS

Foster Carer received an MBE



Martin Williams, Chair of Croydon's Foster Carer's Association and a Croydon foster carer has received an MBE in this year's honours list.

Martin and his partner have been approved as foster carers for the London Borough of Croydon since September 2001. They currently have 2 boys and 1 young man in placement, each with a learning disability. Martin is a very committed foster carer and has successfully worked with these boys, who can sometimes present with challenging behaviours and successfully creates a full family life for all of them.

Martin has been active in researching clubs and holiday schemes for children with a disability and will pass on any information to foster carers. He has also volunteered at the school that the older 2 boys went to. Martin is an amazing advocate for children with disability and makes sure that he secures social and supportive help for them outside of the home.

Martin remains in contact with the first young man placed with him, and he and his partner have been very supportive and maintain a good relationship with him.

Martin quickly became involved with the fostering community and joined the Croydon Foster Carer Association ('CFCA'). Martin has now been the Chair of the CFCA for 8 years and is active and proactive in this role. As the Chair, Martin provides informal support to carers. He is always available for general advice and if he doesn't have the answer will always try and put them in touch with someone who may have the answer and in some cases he follows things up himself.

The CFCA have a monthly support group and Martin organises speakers and arranges the agenda and lunch for Croydon foster carers. This has provided an excellent forum for the department to have a dialogue with foster carers and also through the speakers for foster carers to be informed of new changes and general issues from the department. It is also an opportunity for carers to meet informally over lunch and share their experiences.

Martin is also a Croydon Mentor. When foster carers are newly approved they are given a mentor for the first 6 months of their fostering. Martin will provide weekly



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contact for new carers to ask for advice and talk through some of the problems they may have.

He has also been a member of Croydon's Corporate Parenting Panel for a number of years.

As well as working tirelessly for his own young people, Martin offers so much to the fostering community in Croydon. He is an exceptional person and we appreciate all that he does enormously.

DELIVERING OUR AMBITIONS

Croydon Young Mayor 2018

Nominations to become Croydon's first Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor opened on 12th January 2018, with a closing date of the 5th February 2018. All young people aged 14-17 years (as at 31st August 2018) who live, study or have studied predominantly in Croydon are eligible to be nominated in this first Croydon Young Mayor Election. All young people aged 11-18 years old who live in the borough are entitled to vote in the election.



During February and early March candidates will participate in training, briefings and question times, culminating in borough-wide voting on the 13th March 2018. Official polling stations will be located in local secondary schools, colleges, the Town Hall and a District Centre in the North and South of the borough in accordance with electoral practice. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will be announced by the Returning Officer on the evening of the 15th March 2018.



The Young Mayor will be elected for one year to represent the views of young people and encourage them to create opportunities around issues that matter to them and their communities.

To do this they will:

- Listen and act on the views of young people in Croydon
- Encourage young people to be active citizens and champion democracy
- Recognise the value and potential in young people's ideas and fund them

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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All nominees will submit a manifesto statement and campaign priority. To ensure fair and positive campaigning, all candidates will receive a pack containing election publicity to be used to promote their election campaign and let other young people know why they are standing as Croydon Young Mayor.

Further details and copies of the marketing materials, election rules and nomination packs can be obtained via www.croydon.gov.uk/youngmayor or youngmayor@croydon.gov.uk

Schools of the Year 2017

I am delighted to share with you the schools that have been selected as our local authority schools of the year for 2016/17.

Riddlesdown Collegiate:



This school has been selected as secondary school of the year due to the highly effective wide ranging curriculum that all pupils at the school receive. Riddlesdown's leaders ensure that there is a focus on achieving excellence across all aspects of school, this includes enabling students to pursue interests and talents across the arts, music and dance as well as core subjects.

Leaders in the school have worked relentlessly to ensure that pupils leave the schools having made excellent progress from their starting points. The staff are focused on planning lessons that meet the needs of all of their students and enabling them to achieve the best outcomes that they can.

Pupils are very well prepared for the next stages in their education as a result of the teaching and support that they receive at the school. Positive destinations by sixth form leavers is higher than both local and national averages, with 23% of leavers going onto the top third of HE institutions compared to 17% nationally.



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Oasis Academy Byron:



Oasis Academy Byron Primary school was judged as 'outstanding' by Ofsted at its last inspection. We have selected it as one of our Primary Schools of the year due to the excellent outcomes that they have secured for pupils across all key stages.

Leaders at the school have worked relentlessly to create an excellent, nurturing and engaging learning environment that allows all pupils to achieve high outcomes and that prepares them for the next stage in their education.

92 % of pupils met the expected standard in combined reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key stage two compared to 63% of pupils nationally.

St Joseph's Junior School:

St Joseph's Junior school has been selected as one of the primary schools of the year due to leaders at the school having worked tirelessly to ensure that pupils achieve the best outcomes that they can. The excellent outcomes that the school achieved over the past two academic years has been as a result of leaders and staff robust approach to securing improvements. They have created an inclusive environment where all pupils are valued, supported and nurtured.



86% of pupils met the expected standards in combined reading, writing and mathematics at the end of key stage two which was well above the national average. Pupils also made excellent progress from their starting points in all three subjects.

As a result of the improvements, which have been made over the last few years, our school improvement team are confident that St Joseph's Junior school will be judged as Good in their next Ofsted inspection.

AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON



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St Nicholas SEN School:



St. Nicholas' recent inspection in June confirmed that the school maintained a good quality of education since the last inspection. The report was complimentary about many aspects of provision and confirmed the view that the school is a happy and supportive learning community where children have fun and enjoy their learning.

Curriculum planning and delivery is highly tailored to meet the individual needs of its pupils. This includes the introduction of focused communication sessions planned jointly with speech therapists which provide targeted interventions and cueing strategies to develop language skills and confidence for children with specific language needs.

The school have also been committed to contributing to the wider local offer for children and young people with SEND:

- The Assessment Lead and Deputy Headteacher supported local projects to support mainstream and specialist settings to develop tools to support tracking and reporting on progress for pupils working well below national curriculum levels.
- The Headteacher and Governing Body have collaborated well with Local Authority officers to meet the growing demand for specialist places. The reception class intake has increased this year with building works planned to increase capacity for further growth next year.



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I am proud to have St. Nicholas as part of our continuum of provision for Children and Young People with SEND.

Contact Officer: David.butler@croydon.gov.uk

Ofsted Monitoring Visit – 12th and 13th December 2017 & Commissioner Report

Our first Ofsted monitoring visit has now been completed. It was a constructive opportunity to measure our progress with the inspectors and receive their observations on the quality of our practice.

Our front door arrangements via the MASH were viewed positively by the inspection team, with our former lead inspector stating that she could see evidence of further improvements since the SIF inspection in June.

I am delighted that at the end of last year the Minister of state, Robert Goodwill MP, has advised he is 'Encouraged by the commitment the leadership of the council has demonstrated following the inspection and the steps that have been taken to better resource and build capacity in Children's Services.'

There is no complacency in the journey ahead, however, this is a positive start overall to the improvement journey and an acknowledgement of all our collective hard work over the last six months. The dates for our second monitoring visit have been confirmed for 21st and 22nd March 2018.

Mental Health Support for Schools

We are delighted to have been awarded a place on the Anna Freud Centre's Mental Health Link programme. This is led by clinicians from the Anna Freud Centre for Children and Families.

The programme consists of two free workshops

that bring together schools and local Mental Health services that aim to:

- Develop a shared view of strengths and limitations (and capabilities and capacities) of education and mental health professionals.
- Increase knowledge of resources to support mental health of children and young people.
- Ensure more effective use of existing resources.
- Improve joint working between education and mental health professionals.

To date, over 40 schools across Croydon have booked places on the training, which will take place in 2018. The first session will cover the local picture, such as available services and local plans, as well as giving us a chance to look at any training needs





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that should be covered in the second workshop. It will also look at how to measure and monitor mental health in our schools.