

The First Newsletter of 2018

LETS TAKE A LOOK BACK AT DECEMBER

COFFEE MORNING

To say we were busy in December would be an understatement. The first main event was our coffee morning, and it would appear that we have been a victim of our own success, in that we were all so busy and having such a wonderful time that we didn't take a single picture during the morning.

Many parents visited for a coffee, mince pie and a chat and lots bought the wonderful things that the students and staff had made to sell in the month leading up to the coffee morning.

We had a visit from Gill and Andy who head up the Making Music Group which ended up with an impromptu performance from a group of the students, and everyone joined in singing a few carols.

It was a lovely opportunity for parents to chat to each other, see what the students had made and start getting in to the Christmassy spirit.

We completely sold out of everything by the end of the morning and even took some orders from people who couldn't get what they wanted as we were able to guarantee delivery before Christmas.

The students love the opportunity to create gifts for family and friends, and not only do they take away the sense of pride that they have created something beautiful but also the sense of pride that people like what they have produced so much they are prepared to pay for it.

We raised a lot of money that day and we are now in discussions about what we are going to spend the money on. We have already paid for Wi-Fi to be installed in Hazel and Acorn as staff felt it would be beneficial if in some sessions we could work with the students on their tablets. There are lots of other things we will be able to also do with our own tablet that we have purchased for use in some of the sessions.

At Access we are striving to bring a sense of unity and community and through the coffee mornings we hope for parents/students/friends/staff to have the opportunity to spend time together, getting to know each other, and gain that feeling of belonging to a wonderful team.

STUDENT CHRISTMAS DISCO

The student Christmas disco took place on Monday 18th December. This is an event that all of the students look forward to, although we were unfortunately missing a few students as there were lots of people who suffered with a terrible cold that was going round at that time.

The hall was decorated beautifully and we had a better sound system than we had at the Halloween disco, which was appreciated by the students who wanted loud music, flashing lights and lots of fun. I can safely say we delivered on all three this time.

We had a raffle with some fantastic prizes being won by some of the students. One of our students had an amazing Christmas jumper and was not impressed that we hadn't organised a 'best Christmas jumper' competition!! This is something that will

be happening next year for those who want a heads up.

As per usual all the staff and students got into the spirit of things and I have to mention all the managers from the various houses also attended the disco, which I think the students really appreciated.



MAKING MUSIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT

On Tuesday the 19th December we held the Making Music Christmas concert. Again we had a completely full house with parents, friends, other students and staff all coming along to join together to watch the group perform.

The group had been practicing their new playlist since August and have worked extremely hard to put together a varied and interesting choice of songs - with the addition of some wonderful Christmas Carols that the audience were able to participate and join in.

The group performed two sets with Fiona Johnston and Ben Andrews having quite a few solos, but there were lots of other students who got to perform a solo with the backing of the rest of the band.

There was a raffle and tea/coffee and mince pies at the interval with lots of wonderful prizes claimed. This wonderful event raised quite a bit of money and I am pleased to announce that we have used this money to buy a piece of equipment called a Splah Cymbal which is to be used in conjunction with the Cajon (pronounced Ca-hon), A box shaped percussion instrument originally from Peru, played by slapping the front or rear faces with the hands or fingers.

We are also about to purchase some guitar hooks for when our acoustic guitars are not in use to prolong the life of the guitars.

Just in case any of you haven't seen the Facebook page we are looking for any possible donations of Acoustic guitars - if any of you have a guitar that is no longer played and would like it to be used in this wonderful session - we would be extremely grateful.





HELP THE HOMELESS APPEAL

As part of some of the students Gateway Award they have to show that they have done some volunteering work. It was agreed that the students would organise a collection for an event that takes place every December just before Christmas, where

there is a stall set up in Colchester for the homeless and needy to be able to come along and collect whatever they need to make their Christmas a bit more bearable.

We managed to collect many items as you can see in the pictures - things collected included toiletries, food, clothing, bedding, and also food and toys for dogs. The students helped to sort things that were donated and a group went with a staff member to drop everything off ready for the night on the 21st Dec.

This all came about as we have a contact with a wonderful woman called Shelley Anderton, who is not only one of our partners involved in the care of the people who come here but also a longstanding friend of the company.

I would also like to give a shout out to **Bounceability** and the **University of Essex**, who put our posters up and managed to collect lots of things to add to our donations - thank you so much - we appreciate your efforts to help us with so many things!

On the evening staff members Clare, Carol and Jeri went along so we could report back to the students how much their efforts were appreciated by the people in Colchester who needed these things so much.

We had also raised quite a bit of money that staff donated and this was used to buy socks, toothpaste, foil blankets and dog food.

I feel very proud that the staff and students at the day service all worked extremely hard to pull this together and to help make a difference to the lives of others.



Save the Children
**CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY**

The staff and lots of the students supported Xmas Jumper Day on Friday 15th December. All of the staff donated a £1 each to wear their Christmas Jumper raising a grand total of just under £35 which was donated to Save the Children.

Over the festive period the staff and students created a new picture board - lots of fun was had taking photographs when this was finished.



The start of a new year!

BURNS NIGHT - ANYONE FOR HAGGIS!

Last week we brought in a haggis for all of the students to try - this received mixed results, ranging from disappointment from one student because they initially thought it was chocolate, to disgust by another, and absolute joy by those that loved it. They say variety is the spice of life and you should always try new things, which all of our students did!

January has been a wonderful month for the staff and students, we have got back to our usual routine and all our sessions are running smoothly. Behind the scenes we are making plans for our diary of events for the year, and plan to include:

- Easter coffee morning
- Orienteering and Bush Craft at Daws Hall
- Boating at Woolverstone Marina
- Pleasurewood Hills
- Colchester zoo
- Macmillan coffee morning
- Family Fun Day
- Halloween Disco
- Christmas Coffee morning
- Help the Homeless
- Making Music Christmas concert

We are hoping to set dates to most of these events ready to send out in the next newsletter!

If any parents, friends or relatives hear of anything else the students may be interested in that's out of the ordinary please let us know as we will be discussing these things in our monthly student meetings to see who may be interested.

Please note: A typing error in the last closure list stating that we re-open after a closure in July on Thursday 5th July. This was incorrect and we are definitely back open on Wednesday 4th July!

ACCESS CLOSURES FOR 2018

Closed Friday 30th March 2018
Re-opens Tuesday 3rd April 2018

Closed Monday 7th May 2018
Re-opens Monday 14th May 2018

Closed Monday 28th May 2018
Re-opens Tuesday 29th May 2018

Closed Monday 2nd July 2018
Re-opens Wednesday 4th July 2018

Closed Monday 27th August 2018
Re-opens Monday 10th September 2018

Closed Monday 24th December 2018
Re-opens Thursday 3rd January 2019



Essex Care Consortium Ltd are looking for Support Workers, Night Awakes and 1:1 Support Workers to work in their four different Residential Homes. If you know anybody who would like to work with us or if you would

**like an application form or further
information please contact our
Head Office on 01206 330308 or
07746603757**



Copyright © **[2018]* *[Essex Care Consortium]*, All rights reserved.*

Our mailing address is:

clarestalker@ecarec.co.uk

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)



This email was sent to [<< Test Email Address >>](#)

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Essex Care Consortium Ltd · Maldon Road · Birch · Colchester, Essex CO2 0NU · United Kingdom

MailChimp