

eastparkpatter

Your newsletter for East Park



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Welcome to eastparkpatter

Charlotte Wilson, Care Services Manager

The next few months are set to be some of the most exciting in the 140 year history of East Park. Work on extending the campus, including creating new, individual classrooms where pupils can begin the process of becoming integrated into the life of the school, is coming on apace and the new residences will open over the summer.

These new houses will boost the East Park community, creating places for four additional residents and also providing a further two places that can be used for respite care, emergency accommodation or to provide a flavour of independence to pupils who are ready to move on from the school.

"These places will give us an increased level of flexibility," says Charlotte Wilson who in January joined East Park as Care Services Manager. For Charlotte the summer months are set to be especially busy as she plans the integration of the new residences into East Park's existing services. New staff are being recruited, schedules are being planned and there's the finishing touches to be put in place that will make the new homes welcoming and comfortable in time for the arrival of the first residents.

The opening of the new classrooms and accommodation spell a new chapter not just in the story of East Park but also in Charlotte's career in residential care for young people with autism. Her previous role prior to joining East Park was divided between community and residential care: "But I really wanted to return to a full-time residential role and having heard of East Park's reputation from the social workers who I worked along side, I was keen to come here."

Reading through the job description, she knew that this was exactly the opening she had been looking for.

"I liked variety of the role and the fact that, with the new services, there was a real opportunity for professional development."

One of Charlotte's top priorities in recent weeks has been to complete the application for the Care Inspectorate that will cover the new residences.

"It was very detailed and I worked with the Head of Care Services, with support from the admin team, but now that it has been submitted we are concentrating on recruitment so that we have the right staff in place when the new service opens its door."

Collaboration between staff is the philosophy that underpins all activities at East Park and enables it to deliver such a high quality of service to the young people in its care, and also to their families.

"Both the school and the residences have joint outcomes to work towards and in the residences, as much as in the school, we are focused on the 24-hour curriculum so that progress doesn't stop when the school day ends."

Effective systems for ensuring that all the relevant information on individual pupils and residents is shared between staff around the child is the key to making this approach work. The next stage of East Park's programme of continual improvement will be to put in place electronic systems that will allow this information to be updated around the clock and available instantly to all of those involved in the young people's care. Meanwhile work on getting the new service in place in time for the opening of the residences continues and for Charlotte this brings a whole new dimension to her role.

"There are so many things going on that every day is different and I am loving every moment of it."

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Marcus teaches Makaton



Young person, Marcus, and Team Leader, Karen, teaching Makaton

During a Staff Development Day our Resources Team was joined by Marcus, one of our young people, to teach the team some Makaton signs. Makaton is a language programme using signs and symbols to help people communicate.

Individuals from our Admin, Maintenance & Domestic, Fundraising, Learning & Development and HR teams participated in the session with Marcus demonstrating and staff then imitating his Makaton signs.

Marcus really enjoyed showing the Resources Team some Makaton signs. He was very proud of

himself and we are very proud of him. Going into a room full of strange faces is daunting at the best of times and Marcus coped brilliantly.

"When I asked Marcus if he enjoyed it he replied with a big thumbs up. He enjoyed telling everyone in his house about the team trying to learn the signs."

said Team Leader, Karen. Laura Brown, HR & Admin Manager, said *"Marcus did a fantastic job in teaching us to sign which will help our interaction with the young people that use Makaton at East Park, thank you Marcus!"*

CELEBRATING WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS WEEK



This year's World Autism Awareness Week ran from Saturday 2nd to Friday 8th April. The children and young people at East Park

supported the campaign by making flags and posters, decorating t-shirts and throwing a party with games, karaoke and treats.

Workmates Maths Tutor



Workmates is incredibly grateful to our Maths Tutor, Raymond McDonald, who very generously volunteers his time each Tuesday morning to teach our young people numeracy skills. Raymond held a senior position in a Glasgow college so we are lucky to have him share his expertise in maths with us. He supports our young people with their numeracy skills in a variety of ways adapted to suit the needs of each young person. For some this can be through

playing dominoes, although the Smart table is proving to be very popular as a valuable learning resource. Raymond spends some dedicated time with each young person and we have been very impressed with some of their hidden talents! The young people have pleasantly surprised us with how well they have engaged with the sessions which are particularly fun and interactive. We hope Raymond knows we appreciate him spending his free time with us!

Springtime Learning

LIVING EGGS



The pupils welcomed some very interesting visitors to come and stay at the school for two weeks in April.

On returning from our spring holiday, we were very excited to take delivery of a number of living eggs. Our young people learned about

life cycles, food sources and caring for other living things.

We watched in great excitement as the 10 little fluffy chicks hatched from the eggs in the

incubator. Our pupils were very good at ensuring the chicks were kept nice and warm and their water and food topped up. Our little fluffy friends went to stay at one of our residential houses over a weekend where they were enjoyed

and well looked after. We were also happy to share our learning with children from neighbouring nurseries who came to visit the chicks.

Whether they were learning from the chicks on a sensory level or building independence by completing caring jobs, all of our young people benefitted greatly from this experience.

Pupil David said: *'The hen lays an egg which hatches*

into a chick, and the chick grows into a chicken, then it's a continuous loop.'

Everyone thought the chicks were very cute and they put a smile on all of our faces – staff and young people!

We watched in great excitement as the 10 little fluffy chicks hatched from the eggs in the incubator

The Great Outdoors



During the Spring Term, East Park enjoyed being outdoors spending time in our sensory garden, The Den, and down at The Children's Woods. In The Den the pupils planted herbs, strawberries, tomatoes, peas, onions and potatoes. We are looking forward to seeing what crops are successful and

cooking something tasty with the produce in the school kitchen. Down at the Children's Wood we have been exploring, cooking on an open fire (yum yum!) and participating in storytelling activities. We all love being outdoors come rain or shine, especially if there are some marshmallows to be toasted!

Bodyworks On Tour



Glasgow Science Centre. The Bodyworks show and workshop used props and interactive exhibits to teach our young people about our digestive systems and the importance of a balanced diet to keep our bodies healthy. This was a very popular session enjoyed by all.

The same week, we had an extra special assembly with a visitor from Foodlab, who talked to us about healthy food and where it comes from. Our young people engaged very well with this lively session and we even got to hold or feel some critters at the end – the stick insect was the most favoured!

East Park was delighted to host Bodyworks on Tour from the

Promoting Healthy Lives

A team of our learning support workers took part in a course run by the Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland (REHIS) to further develop their understanding of food health, nutrition and hygiene. This initiative was funded by *The Food for Thought Education Fund* which supports schools

across Scotland to develop and improve learning and teaching around food education.

The purpose of the course was to encourage a positive commitment to healthy eating through the curriculum, develop the skills of staff and learners to gain confidence in cooking and sharing

knowledge in respect of food and its impact on our health.

In the Spring term pupils planted and grew their own produce, which when ready for harvesting would be used to make soups and salads.

Alison Gorman, Learning Support Worker, said,

'The course was fun and interactive and incredibly beneficial to the staff and young people. I have been able to put my learning into practise by teaching good hygiene, taking responsibility for food safety hazards and sharing best practice with my colleagues.'



Fundraising & Volunteers

Terrific Tesco Bank Volunteers



A big thank you to the staff from The Fraud Prevention Team at Tesco Bank Glasgow who braved the cold and wet weather to work wonders on our allotment. The team raised funds to buy compost, bedding, plants,

shrubs, vegetables and fruit and did a fantastic job of preparing the allotment for growing in the spring and summer which our young people will thoroughly enjoy. Well done and we hope to see the team again soon.

FUNraising by Cale students



Five Business students from Glasgow Caledonian University chose to support East Park through their Entrepreneurship, Enterprise and Employability Module. The enthusiastic team visited the young people at East Park and put together their FUNraising campaign to raise awareness and funds. By launching a successful Facebook campaign, utilising the online Virgin Money Giving scheme and selling Crispy Kreme donuts on Campus they raised a fantastic £255.83. A huge thank you to the FUNraising Team: Sean, Domiziana, Kellyann, Lisa and Fraser for all their hard work!

Waitrose Green Token Initiative

Our staff, friends and family kindly nominated East Park to benefit from the Waitrose Community Matters Charity Monthly Initiative. During the month of March, customers of

Waitrose Byres Road showed their support through the green token initiative which resulted in a £250 donation. Thank you to Waitrose Byres Road and their customers.

Barratt Homes beats all expectations

Barratt Homes West Scotland held their annual charity dinner on Friday 19th February at the Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow. The event brought together colleagues, suppliers, contractors and friends in the industry to celebrate their achievements and support their chosen charity.

This year, East Park was thrilled to be chosen as the beneficiary charity. Our Executive Director, Judy Cromarty, and Chair of the Board of Trustees, Kenneth Pinkerton, were honoured to attend and represent East Park on the evening.

A champagne reception welcomed the guests before being seated in the beautiful ballroom. A warm welcome from Barratt Homes West Scotland Managing Director, David Scott, and a competitive game of Heads and Tails kicked off the evening with how it intended to continue! Judy



Jeneane & Suzanne from Barratt Homes West Scotland present the cheque to East Park's Executive Director, Judy Cromarty, and young people, Marcus, Patsy & John.

Cromarty followed with a heartfelt insight into how East Park is supporting Scotland's most vulnerable children and young people. After a delicious meal and witty entertainment from after dinner speaker, Bill Coupland, the MC, Dougie Jackson, launched into the live auction creating a competitive spirit for the prizes at stake. A fabulous evening was

had by all and an incredible £44,542.50 was raised!

The funds raised will be used to fit out the newly built residential care accommodation that will support up to 49 children and young people and their families a year. Judy Cromarty said: "We are overwhelmed by the support and generosity of Barratt Homes West Scotland, their suppliers and contractors. The

funds raised at the charity dinner will make a significant impact to the new respite, residential and education facilities being built. We can't thank everyone enough for their incredible kindness."

David Scott, managing director of Barratt Homes West Scotland, said: "East Park does fantastic work, helping young people with severe learning difficulties and their families. Our staff, contractors and suppliers rallied behind the cause and we are thrilled to be able to support the charity as it looks to build new facilities for its pupils."

We would like to thank all the companies and individuals that donated such fantastic prizes for the raffle, games and auction; the guests for their overwhelming generosity on the night and finally Barratt Homes West Scotland for choosing East Park to benefit from such a wonderful event.