



# SEND Newsletter

Issue 3, Autumn 2022

Welcome to this term's edition of our newsletter specially produced for parents and carers of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at DHJS.



Lilian Koder, SENDCo

The aim is to provide you with useful and up-to-date information about how SEND pupils are supported at DHJS and signpost you to further information and resources.

We are very proud to be an inclusive school where every child is valued and supported as an individual. We believe that our skilled staff team, combined with our positive and nurturing ethos, enables all children to be happy and successful learners.

## Introducing... Lorraine Thomas, Learning Coach



As well as working at the Hamlet on Wednesdays and Thursday mornings, Lorraine Thomas is Chief Executive of The Parent-Coaching Academy. See more at : [www.theparentcoachingacademy.com](http://www.theparentcoachingacademy.com)

She is the author of several books including 'Super Coach Arty vs The Shadow - Taking the Fear out of Failure', 'Brilliantly Behaved Toddler', 'The 7-Day Parent Coach', 'Get A Life' and 'The Mummy Coach.'

Lorraine is also an ambassador for The International Positive Education Network and was a spokesperson for Disney's 'Inside Out' film - a good film to get families chatting about emotions.

Lorraine Thomas is our learning coach. She works with children across the school, including some of our SEN children. Her particular area of expertise is working with children on a 1:1 basis to help build and nurture their emotional fitness and resilience. Emotions can be overwhelming so she coaches them to manage challenging feelings like fear, anger and sadness. She helps children to understand that all emotions are natural—it's not that some are good and some are bad. She helps them to develop practical tips and tools that they can use in every area of their lives and the best ideas always come from the children themselves. If they are part of the decision-making process, they are much more likely to make it work. Lorraine aims to take them on a journey during each session which she calls Engage, Explore and Empower.

### ENGAGE

In her sessions, Lorraine connects with the child by helping them to relax and build in moments of fun and joy. For example, they often play games together like Connect 4, Uno, Bananagrams and Frustration, or they might draw or play music together. Lorraine listens to what the children are saying and is led by them. When children begin to relax, they find it much easier to talk about what's going well in their life as well as areas they may struggle with.

### EXPLORE

Lorraine then explores how the child is feeling, celebrating positive emotions and identifying more painful ones. 'Name it and tame it' is the first step to helping them believe they can manage their own emotions. Lorraine explains what happens in their brains when they feel anxious so that they can understand the science and what they can do to help themselves. They are constantly building a vocabulary to talk about their feelings. This is a vital part of the process. However, if children only talk about an emotion like fear, it can get bigger in their minds, so the third step is essential.

### EMPOWER

Lorraine works on individual ideas to help each child feel stronger in the areas they feel least resilient. She makes connections between the areas of their lives that they enjoy and feel confident in and gives them evidence-based feedback on their values, skills, strengths and qualities. It may be on a sports field, performing music or drama, eating or cooking. Those strengths are portable and they can take them with them everywhere.

## A Word from our SEND Link Governor



Hello everyone!

A strong SEND provision is central to our school vision of providing '*outstanding learning, within a glittering curriculum, where everyone matters*'. Each year, the local governing body (LGB) reviews and approves our school development plan (SDP), which sets out the key priorities and actions for the next academic year to help us fulfil the school's long-term strategic objectives.

So, what do these priorities mean for our SEND provision? Lilian and I have identified five key areas of focus for the Hamlet SEND action plan:

### **Developing a stronger relationship with parents and carers**

We want to develop and formalise our systems for communicating with parents and carers of pupils with SEND. We will achieve this by continuing some of our existing initiatives, such as this termly newsletter and our popular SEND parent cafés. And by introducing some exciting new practices, such as teachers sharing learning plans at parents' evenings and systems that will make it clearer what interventions are in place for your child.

### **Leveraging the benefits of our new SEND provision mapping system**

We want to continue developing and refining how we measure the impact of our SEND provision by utilising our new provision mapping system, Edukey. This will create a clearer picture of what support/interventions are most effective and those which require improvement.

### **Fostering an inclusive and high-performing team**

At Dulwich Hamlet, we are already lucky to have a strong team of teaching and support staff. We want to continue to develop their expertise to remove barriers to participation and learning for SEND pupils.

### **Promoting inclusion amongst our Hamleteers**

We want to continue to raise pupils' awareness and understanding of SEND. We will achieve this through our PSHE curriculum, by delivering even more fantastic assemblies on Neurodiversity and by amplifying and strengthening SEND pupils' voices.

### **Establishing a closer working relationship with the LGB**

We want to ensure the local governing board is well-sighted on SEND-related matters to strengthen and inform strategic decision-making and planning.

Lilian will lead the day-to-day delivery of this exciting action plan, and I will provide strategic oversight through constructive challenge, support, and monitoring.

**Felicia Johnstone, SEND Link Governor**

## Individual Learning Plans

If you are a parent or carer of a child on the SEND Register at the Hamlet, you will have received their individual learning plan via email this week. At the recent teacher meetings, these individual learning plans were mostly shared on-screen with parents and carers and in the reviewed version sent by email you can see the progress your child has made towards their targets this term.

This term we have launched a new system for producing these individual learning plans using an online platform called Edukey Provision Map (<https://www.provisionmap.co.uk/>).

We hope this will be a really useful and informative document for parents and carers. The individual learning plan shows the priority targets your child has been working on this term and the provision and strategies that the class teacher has put in place to support them within the classroom. Depending on their needs, some children also take part in intervention groups beyond the classroom such as speech and language therapy, play therapy, spelling and handwriting groups. These are not listed on the plan, but if you are unsure about the extra interventions that your child takes part in, please check with the class teacher.

The right hand side of the individual learning plan shows the progress your child has made towards the desired outcome for each target. A numerical system is used as follows:

-2 = Significantly less than expected progress

-1 = Less than expected progress

**0 = As expected progress (0 does not mean no progress has been made)**

1 = More than expected progress

+2 = Significantly more than expected

If you have any questions about your child's plan please ask the class teacher in the first instance.

### How to get in touch

In the first instance, contact your child's class teacher. If you need to contact the SENDCo, you can email [lkoder1.210@lgflmail.org](mailto:lkoder1.210@lgflmail.org) or phone the school office on 020 7525 9188 and ask for Lilian.

You can find our SEND Policy and SEND Information Report here:

[www.dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk/policies.html](http://www.dulwichhamletjuniorschool.org.uk/policies.html)

### Useful Links

**Southwark Autism Support Team (AST)**  
- contact Mr B for advice on 078 0286 0871 or [blagoje.vucinic@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:blagoje.vucinic@southwark.gov.uk)

**Southwark Information and Advice Service (SIAS)** 0207 525 3104 or [sias@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:sias@southwark.gov.uk)

**Bell House, Dulwich** - links to Dyslexia courses/events: <https://www.bellhouse.co.uk/dyslexia-page-overview-copy>

**Touch-Typing Programmes** - BBC Dance Mat Typing (free); Doorway Online Typing (free); Nessy Fingers.

**Parenting Support** - you can find details of courses and groups run by Southwark Council here: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/childcare-and-parenting/children-social-care/family-early-help-feh/parenting?chapter=8>