

Smiths

school report

MAY 2022
ISSUE 02

Booking your Appointment

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Inside Hazelwood's Forest School

An Insight into the Ukrainian Refugee Crisis

How East Barnet became one of the Most Subscribed Schools in the County

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Full marks for school uniform.



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**All opinions expressed in this publication are not a reflection of Smiths Schoolwear.*



Hazelwood Schools, comprising the Infant and Junior Hazelwood schools, was built over 100 years ago in 1907 and stands tall as a site for creative learning and constant development. Meeting with the school's headteacher, Josh Newham, it was clear to see that the school does not stand still and is always looking for ways to progress and develop for not only their students but also their staff members. It seemed Hazelwood Schools had no speciality areas as the school's performance is astounding across the board.

Around fifteen years ago, the school federated to become a school under the one overarching name 'Hazelwood Schools'. From this, the school operate as one school and one united community. As a school comprising of just under 700 pupils and just under 100 members of staff, the intimate nature of the school meant that the community was a welcoming and friendly place for everyone.

Josh, who started as headteacher at the school in September 2021, said "this job appealed to me because of the diverse community. Although it is so diverse, everyone acts as one community. We come together for the benefit of all our children".





The school offers a range of exciting opportunities for all students inside and outside the school. Continually developing the school, the school introduced a new history and geography curriculum for Key Stage 2 and has found that this has had a profoundly positive impact on the students. Having recently opened the Forest School area, which I and the students explored later, a key part of the school's curriculum is a focus on the environmental issues we face today. When creating the Forest School, as part of the Thames 21 project, Hazelwood Schools planted hazel whips alongside lots of other schools that planted different species of trees and plants across London.

By leading Eco Council sessions, the school encourages students to talk about the environment and come up with solutions to everyday problems. The Forest School is a practical and accessible way of learning for the students. From September, taster sessions will end and the Forest School will be an integral part of the students' curriculum. In this area, students will learn how to make shelter and light fires as well as "learning about the world around them and what it would take to live outside and what we as humans would need to survive", Josh noted. By connecting practical exploration to prehistoric survival, the school offers each student a completely immersive experience in the great outdoors. Where, typically, playgrounds are concreted places, the school has designated an area of nature where children enjoy spending their time.

I asked Josh what made Hazelwood Schools unique and he said that "the community is a huge strength of our school. We have specialist PE, music, and Spanish provision and we pride ourselves on ensuring a high quality of teaching across the board". Unlike other schools, Hazelwood teaches its students Spanish from Year 1 so that even the youngest child can benefit from a secondary language.

Within the pastoral team, Hazelwood Schools has a full-time learning mentor who manages a caseload of children to support them in a variety of ways: to improve their access to learning; to help them if they are

struggling; to be there if they need someone to talk to in school or at home. The school also has an inclusion manager who supports children with additional needs and helps those who need to be signposted to get extra help.

Moreover, the school has introduced a mental health and wellbeing week every year. During this week, the school switch to an adapted timetable which focuses on PSHE lessons, mental health and wellbeing, and ways to look after ourselves and other. What was most significant to us, however, was the school's belief that mental health should not be followed with the word problem. "Everyone has mental health", Josh said. And he is right. By removing the word 'problem', the school encourages students to be more open with each other and staff about their mental and physical struggles.

As for upcoming developments, the school is redeveloping classrooms to see if they can use LED lighting and always considers the environment in every decision they make. The Eco Council, which comprises year 5 and 6 students, meet fortnightly and their findings are publicised in the school's online newsletter. The members of the council recently did a traffic survey to work out the number of cars illegally parked and those idling, and the impact this has on congestion and carbon emissions. On top of this, the school is meeting with the council to discuss how they can become a 'School Street', meaning the street will be closed off to make it a safer environment for school children.

Finally, I asked Josh why uniform was important to Hazelwood Schools. "It gives our students a sense of identity," he started, "plus, it helps to show off our school and helps in terms of safety on trips and local walks. I believe it gives our students a sense of identity and they proud to be a part of that".

We had a great afternoon meeting the friendly faces of Hazelwood Schools, including the talented and friendly students themselves, who persevered to take pictures during a thunderstorm.

Our **EARLY BIRD OFFER.**



the early bird catches the worm

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USE CODE

EARLYBIRD10

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Diversity and Inclusion

And what we're doing about it.

You might have noticed a few changes across our media by now. We hope you've noticed, in particular, our Ethnic Diversity and Inclusion mission coming to the fore. After the success of our photoshoot, we have been visiting our schools to represent our true customer base. It has been brilliant to meet so many inspiring staff members and students.

For so many students growing up, it's important to see representations of themselves that they can resonate with to increase

their sense of belonging.

On research, a white male child is much more likely to feel accepted and as though he belongs in a school environment than a black male child. We not only want every child to feel like they belong, but also that they can excell no matter their background. Every child deserves full marks for school uniform.

Hence, we will never use images that don't represent our multi-cultural and mixed ability, community of brilliant students. That's part of the Smiths Difference.



We knew we had to create an inclusive space where every student felt able to reach their fullest potential.



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Clean the World

HYGIENE KIT PROGRAMME



Who we are? Clean the World is a global social enterprise that partners with the hospitality industry to recycle soap and bottled amenities. We then work with organisations around the world to package the recycled soap along with several other hygiene items into hygiene kits that are distributed to individuals in need.

Clean the World's Hygiene Kit Builds provide an engaging way for companies, clubs, and service organisations to meet corporate social responsibility and sustainable development goals, improve teamwork, boost morale, create a renewed focus on community.

Your group can host a socially distanced hygiene kit build (or purchase pre-assembled kits) where you work together to assemble hygiene kits and then distribute the kits to shelters, missions, disaster relief efforts, or a number of other places within your community.

Why participate in a Clean the World Hygiene Kit Build?

PROVIDE HOPE. Give much needed hygiene products to people struggling to meet their family's basic needs.

WORK TOGETHER. The bond that's formed when people unite and support a cause will create benefits that reach beyond your event.

RAISE AWARENESS. Promote your event and distribution to local media, raising awareness of the cause you support.

CHANGE LIVES. By distributing the kits locally, you experience first-hand how something so simple can have a profound impact on someone's life.



SCAN ME

PROVIDE CRITICAL HYGIENE SUPPLIES TO PEOPLE IN NEED



Looking for a way to engage employees from home?

Similar to our in-person hygiene kit build, employees are sent a Soap Saves Lives Box to their home so they can assemble hygiene kits with their family and friends. Visit cleantheworld.org/soapsaveslives for more information.

For information please contact us at: 07931992104 or Email: rdudbridge@cleantheworld.org
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How British Families are Supporting Refugees in the Russia-Ukraine War

Source: Forex <https://forex.quatn.info/latest-ukraine-updates-kyiv-tv-tower-hit-in-alleged-attack-russia-war-news-al-jazeera.html>

A few days ago, we were fortunate enough to sit down with a family who will be welcoming an Ukranian refugee family of four into their home. The British family of five, with two children moved out of the house, are based in a lovely suburban village in Lincolnshire. Meeting with them over Zoom, Diane was a friendly face who seemed over the moon to be making a positive difference at a time of great uncertainty for Europe.

"It made sense", Diane began, "we have spare bedrooms and there are people looking for somewhere to be safe. Being bombed, losing their homes and their loved ones, in fear for their lives and future". From the get-go, the entire family

had been eager to get involved in helping aid the refugee crisis. Their motivations were clear: "there are good people needing help who haven't asked for war, and we are in a position where we can help - so we should", one child remarked.

The family told us, however, that the Visa application phase hadn't been easy. When I asked how the process was for the family, Diane exclaimed "Long and frustrating! I applied on 24th March and just got the last Visa through on 3rd May. The forms were

long and complicated to complete, and that's just the beginning of the journey". "What about when they arrive," I asked, "I expect further checks will need to be done

There are good people needing help who haven't asked for war, and we are in a position where we can help - so we should.

need to be done as well?”. “When they arrive there will be lots of other forms and applications that need to be done to get them set up with school places, a bank account, biometric residence permit, doctors, dentist etc. It is a lot but nothing compared to what they have been through already”.

So what got this family to this point? How did they make it happen? “You have to try and connect with a family via Facebook groups or local community or faith groups”, Di responded. I asked her family how they went about finding refugees to house. “We used a Facebook group to post about where we live and the accommodation we offer. I had quite a few responses but felt the family we will be sponsoring would be a good match for us. They seem like a lovely family and we message each other nearly every day now as we await their arrival!”. Di had gone to every length to make the family’s arrival as seamless as possible, even going as far as videoing the surrounding village and the route to the local school so that the family could make an informed decision.

“Could you tell me more about the family?” I asked, “what are they like?”. Di remarked that they are a family of four, two women and two girls. The father has remained in Ukraine where he is supporting the war effort. The family managed to get to Slovakia shortly after the war started and have been living in temporary accommodation while waiting for their visas. The mother speaks very good English, so Di expects this will help the family transition into their new surroundings. “They are a lovely family whose normal lives were turned upside down through no fault of their own on 24th February”.

I wanted to know more about the challenges of housing refugees and what the family had been through to get to this point. “So far the downs are having to look for

and match with a sponsee alone. Honestly, the positives outweigh the negatives by far. By sponsoring a family, you can make a real connection and difference to people who are in difficulty due to circumstances beyond their control”.

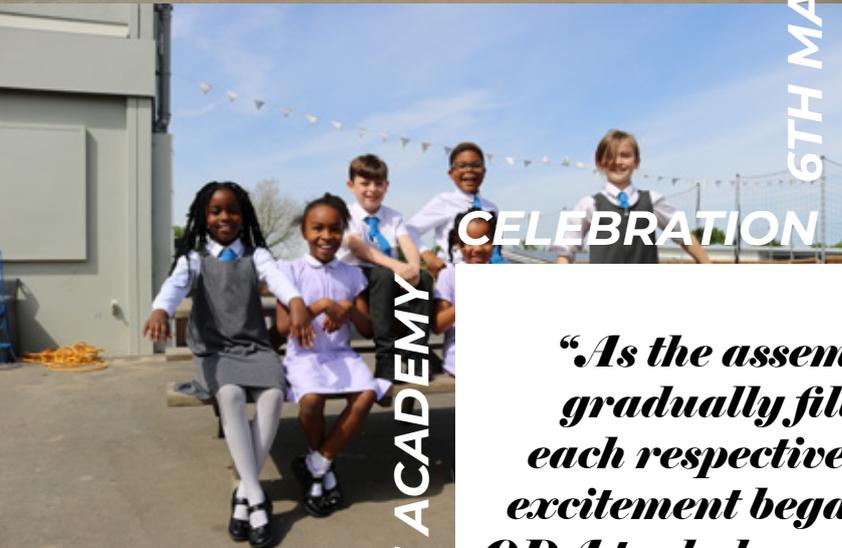
What was more rewarding for the family, however, was seeing stories of refugees arriving and having great experiences with their host families. It was clear to see the huge national effort that had gone into supporting those in a time of crisis. “It’s a great testament to the British people!” Di said. It certainly does remind one of the coming together of disparate communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. In times of difficulty, the British always seem to come together.

The family have taken every measure impossible, giving up hours of their time to redecorate the house and move furniture around to ensure the family had communal and private spaces for themselves. “We’ve decorated rooms and bought beds, bedding and towels and are making sure they have everything they need. We’ve allocated them their bathroom and living and dining room so that they can have privacy as a family and don’t feel that they are imposing on us. We’ve stocked up on toiletries and food and have allocated their food storage areas and fridge and freezer”.

The hard work doesn’t stop there. “We still have some things we need such as child car seats and will be reaching out to the local community who may have toys and equipment their children have grown out of, and are willing to contribute”.

Should more of us open our doors to Ukranian refugees in a time of crisis? Where financially and physically able to, absolutely. Although, it’s clear that available homes are not in short supply. And, once again, the nation is coming together in a time of crisis to support a noble and global cause.

They are a lovely family whose normal lives were turned upside down through no fault of their own on 24th February.



6TH MAY 2022

ONEDEGREE ACADEMY

CELEBRATION

“As the assembly hall gradually filled with each respective year, the excitement began to build. ODA truly have the familial aspect of their culture down to a T, singing every certificate winner’s name to Celebration by Kool & The Gang.”

The CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY.

We’ve just returned from One Degree Academy’s Celebration Assembly. When Jo (the Academy’s Head Teacher) mentioned that the assemblies were a grand and rowdy celebration of the students’ hard work, it really was an understatement. We were so proud to attend the event and witness the kindness and generosity of each student and the school’s staff.

As the assembly hall gradually filled with each respective year, the excitement began to build. ODA truly have the familial aspect of their culture down to a T, singing every certificate winner’s name to Celebration by Kool & The Gang. For a Friday afternoon, we remarked, the students were incredibly well behaved. One of our colleagues even got a V.I.P shoutout from staff and students. “That’s awesome!” one child remarked on learning that we stock the academy’s uniform.

Each assembly began with a good dance and sing along to No Place I’d Rather Be by Jess Glynne, which every student knew the words to off by heart. The whole room was buzzing with positivity and fun energy and the sunshine filled the room around us.

Of the six STRIVE values, this week’s focus was Responsibility. About four children from each class group were selected to win a certificate for demonstrating responsibility. John, a new teacher at the school, even received a certificate for adjusting so well to their new environment.

Every interaction with One Degree Academy demonstrates that every child that attends the academy is full of potential. The best part of the assembly was that each child shared a ‘top tip’ for success. We are certain that, like the children attending the assembly, we will be taking these tips away and reflecting upon them ourselves.



Women in Sport

I had the pleasure of meeting with a local student to discuss why female representation in sports is important. Chantelle had a very interesting perspective on female representation: “most representation in sports are men - there’s not a lot of female representation”. Chantelle continued to say she believed that women should be represented in sports from a young age, such as in films or broadcast sporting events. By doing so, sports would become more accessible to more women.

For Chantelle, sport (football, in particular) is a great stress reliever. When speaking to a wide range of students, the values of exercising while studying are overlooked. However, Chantelle’s introspective and passionate view of sport demonstrates how important sports can be to young people, particularly to young women.



In Demand

How East Barnet Became One of the Most Subscribed Schools in the County

E

Established in April 1937, East Barnet School stands tall in Barnet with their motto: I want to learn. Having moved into their new building in 2011, the school was originally a split-site where years 7-10 and the Sixth Form resided on the other site. The new school was opened by the Duke of Gloucester at their grand opening ceremony back in 2011 and, since 1937, has only had five headteachers.

Meeting with Laura Coffill, the Deputy Headteacher at East Barnet School, we benefitted from hearing how genuinely invested all staff members are in the school. Staff turnover in itself is very low, and Laura told us that the biggest compliment staff pay to the school is that they send their children to the school they work in. The school itself comprises 1,460 students and just over 100 members of staff. The Sixth Form, in particular, is rapidly growing and has now reached 360 students in total. The Sixth Form curriculum boasts a huge range of A-Levels based around the school's enrichment and leadership programme. Moreover, students that need extra time before A-Levels can take

a bridging course. This means that students can retake English and Maths and partake in a range of activities including Business and Digital media that prepare them for the modern world. Popular A-Levels include Photography, Politics, Sociology, Maths and Further Maths. "We are known for A-Levels", Laura told us, "we are the top Sixth Form school in Barnet". The school's family feel and genuine care for its students has had a tremendous community impact, being over numbers and intake full up for next September. Increase in admission numbers and number of people putting down as first choice school.

Beyond the wealth of subjects and experiences available for students, we wanted to know why Laura enjoyed being a member of staff at the school. "The school is so lovely, there's a special atmosphere about East Barnet school. We focus really on our culture and our values and because of this our students "want to learn"." Laura continued that the value of 'do the right thing' is an ethos instilled in the children so that they leave as lifelong learners who excel academically. East Barnet teaches for life beyond the classroom and works on developing character values of respect, integrity, and kindness. Even in the latest Ofsted report, the investigators said that the value of 'do the right thing' can be

seen in the children. “We want children to do their best and get good grades,” Laura continued, “but they must be nice people”. Because of the positive and nurturing attitude of the staff, exam results are constantly improving and staff and student retention are very high. Ten staff members are alumni and many staff send their children to East Barnet. Laura told us that the staff’s willingness to send their children to the school is a testament that they buy into what the school is trying to achieve. “In two years, I will send my child here”, Laura said confidently after telling us that what they offer is good enough for the staff members’ children.

What makes East Barnet unique from any other school is that “very few schools are prepared to focus on both aspects of the child”, Laura said. The school approaches learning in a 50/50 way - 50% challenge and 50% personal development. The high challenge is not at the expense of children being able to explore who they are and make their way in the world. Even at such a large scale, the school had a strong family feel and everyone was friendly and positive to each other, with Laura telling a poorly student to get well soon as we walked around the school. “Any child would say they feel cared for”, Laura told us. Mindfulness and well-being are at the heart of the school in this way, having a well-being hub and therapy rabbits. Laura was hopeful, (and we are too!) that East Barnet will soon have a school dog.

In terms of pastoral support, East Barnet School have in-house school councillors. With increased waiting lists for CAMHs, the school’s on-site facility makes a huge difference to the mental wellbeing of its students. As part of their pastoral care, East Barnet have a triple E programme: extension, enrichment and enhancement. As part of the school’s curriculum, they do mindfulness blocks for 6 weeks, self-regulate and give coping skills. East Barnet also have a Social and Emotional hub space where their therapy rabbits live and a sensory room for children who get over stimulated so that they can regulate themselves. Even down to the school’s house system, every aspect of the school’s community is about bringing people together through community and teamwork.

East Barnet listens to and values its students and, after receiving feedback from

students who felt that their uniform was too gender stereotyped, the school decided that all students would wear ties from the new Year 7 intake. Having bought all new starters ties to go in goodie bags, the school also decided to update their PE kits to make these gender neutral. The school certainly has strength in its student voice - and in listening to it and acting on it. From instilling a confidence in standing up for what you believe in, seven East Barnet students have stood for Youth Parliament this year.

“Uniform is a huge part of our values - it is a visual representation of what we stand for. It unites the children; it breaks away from any financial barriers. Within this, there is no judgement because everyone is the same and we operate as a collective body.”, Laura said. Upon leaving the school, we asked why uniform was important to East Barnet School.

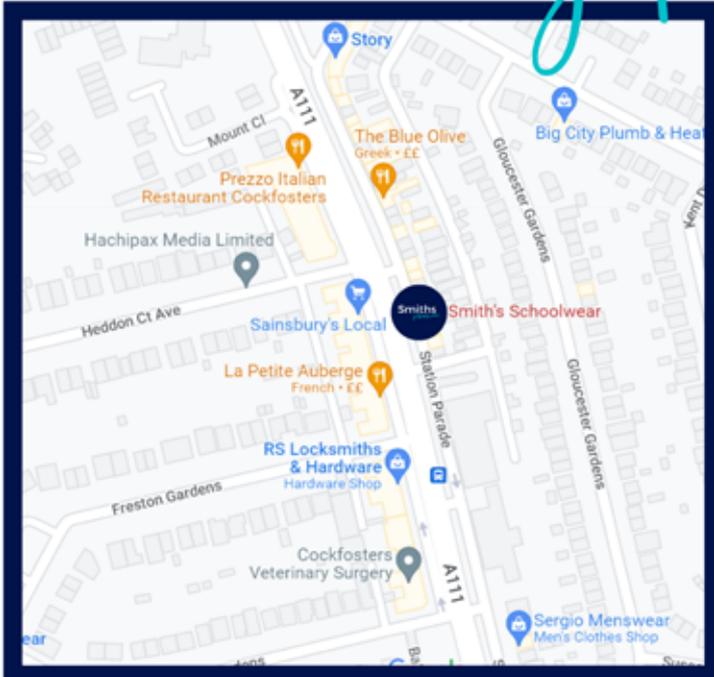
Laura’s answer summarised the most important aspects of schoolwear: “it’s about having pride in your appearance... about representing the school and the values of the school. If you are smartly dressed you behave smartly. Our uniform makes us proud of [our students] and them proud of us. Our students like wearing their school uniform because it gives them a sense of community and unity”.

Not only does the distinctive maroon colour have historical significance relating to the War of the Roses but also for the parents who used to wear the colours themselves and pass them down to the next generation.



Smiths

get in touch



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