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Our Newham Learning & Skills Learner Newsletter



Learner Bulletin

Update from the Head of Service- Jaspal Dhaliwal



As we come to the end of this term, I want to extend a heartfelt “well done” for all your hard work and dedication. You have faced challenges, embraced opportunities, and demonstrated remarkable resilience and growth. This is just the beginning of your exciting journey, and I am so proud of what you have achieved so far.

We have also had an incredible start to December filled with community spirit and engagement. The Cake Competition showcased not only creativity but also the warmth and camaraderie among all learners. Additionally, our Wellness Event was a wonderful reminder of the importance of balance and self-care in our busy lives. You can read more about these fantastic events and much more in this newsletter.

Enjoy the well-deserved break, and I wish you a restful and rejuvenating festive season!

Jaspal Dhaliwal
Head of Our Newham Learning & Skills

Important Dates

Spring Term 2025: Monday 6th January – Friday 28th March 2025

Half Term Week: Monday 17th February 2025 – Friday 21st February 2025

Upcoming themes

- **International Day of Education:** Friday 24th January 2025

Round up of this month's activities

ONLS Learners Wellness Event

Towards the end of the previous month, we hosted an ONLS Learner Wellness Event at Forest Gate Learning Zone.

Our carousel of information stalls, featuring Our Newham Business & Enterprise, Our Newham Work, Our Newham Money, Catch22, Barclays, the Volunteering Team, and Well Newham, provided valuable advice, guidance, and resources to help attendees thrive.

The activities were a hit! From beautiful henna designs and creative cake decorating energetic box fit sessions, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

A huge thank you to all our partners, teams, and participants for making this event special. We hope learners who attended were able to take information and resources away that will support them within the daily lives.

[View our highlights here](#)

Cake Competition

This December, the festive spirit was in full swing as thirteen talented learners entered our much-anticipated Christmas Special Cake-Off competition. The theme this year? craft six Christmas yule logs inspired by the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

Each participant brought their unique perspective to the theme, drawing inspiration from wintry landscapes, woodland creatures, and the vibrant colours of nature during the festive season.

The learners displayed a remarkable range of skills, turning their cakes into edible masterpieces. Techniques such as intricate piping, sculpting with fondant, and hand-painting were used to add fine details and textures. The learners' cakes were judged flavour and texture.

Ultimately, the judges faced a tough decision in selecting the winners. The skill and effort poured into each entry were undeniable, and every learner should be proud of their achievements. Beyond the prizes and accolades, the Cake-Off was a wonderful

their achievements. Beyond the prizes and accolades, the Cake-Off was a wonderful celebration of camaraderie and festive joy.

Congratulations to all the participants for making this year's Christmas Cake-Off such success!

[View our highlights here](#)

ESOL Reading Challenge and Awards Event

Our ESOL learners recently embarked on an exciting reading challenge designed to spark their love for books and build essential skills. As part of this initiative, learners took trips to local libraries, where they carefully selected books to read both inside the classroom and in their free time. This combination of guided and independent reading helped foster a deeper engagement with the English language.

To mark the culmination of the event, the ESOL curriculum team hosted a special awards ceremony to celebrate the learners' achievements. The challenge not only boosted vocabulary but also promoted the development of independent learning skills. It was a fantastic opportunity for everyone to showcase their dedication and progress.

A huge well done to all 30 learners who were nominated for their outstanding efforts. Special congratulations go to Antonio, crowned the Winner of the 2024 ESOL Reading Challenge. Your hard work and commitment have inspired us all!

Second Learner Reps Meeting

Our second Learner Reps Meeting was a productive and collaborative session, focused on enhancing communication across the learner community. Representative from various courses came together to discuss key updates and share valuable insights.

During the meeting, learner reps were provided with clear actions to ensure effective dissemination of information to their fellow learners. This included sharing updates on upcoming events, resources, and opportunities for feedback. The reps embraced the roles with enthusiasm, demonstrating a strong commitment to fostering a supportive and informed learning environment.

Thank you to all the learner reps for their dedication and efforts in making this initiative a success. Your contributions continue to play a vital role in building a connected and engaged community.

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Your Bulletin Your Stories

We would love to hear from you. Have you got a story to tell us? We welcome real-life stories that you want to share (be prepared to be interviewed) or creative writing pieces, poems, and short stories. Tell us a story about you, your journey, your challenges and triumphs. We will not publish your name if you do not want us to. Send your stories to farheen.butt@newham.gov.uk by the 15th of January 2025.

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