

Horizon Pride



Welcome to the Summer Edition of Horizon Pride. It is the time of year where we say thank you for all your hard work and support with a day out at the Races. We are looking forward to spending the day with staff both old and new.

Since the Spring edition we have been busy with preparations for the opening of our new school in Whitefield. We have been putting the finishing touches to the new brochure and website, a guide for managers and updating the Staff Handbook. We have also been keeping up with developments and initiatives at both a local and national level.

We have attended regional commissioning forums in England, Scotland and Wales, the launch of joint work between the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and Social Care Institute of Excellence, to develop guidance on the health of Looked After Children and Young People. We also attended the National Provider Forum with Ofsted which focused on the findings of the Safeguarding Review 2008 and Putting Inspection Reports for Children's Homes on the Internet.

Phil and Amanda

Summer Race Day

All staff are invited to our Summer Race Days again this year; dates have been confirmed as 24th July at Uttoxeter Race Course and 7th August at Haydock Race Course. Both begin at 2pm and we will meet outside the main entrance.

We have booked everyone Premier Race Cards and lunch will be included.

Dress code is smart for both days, however Haydock specifically request jacket and tie for the men.

The race days are always a great opportunity to meet people from other homes and maybe win some money!

Please ensure that if you cannot attend after confirming that you will be coming, you let Head Office know in plenty of time to cancel or refill your place.

Thank you!

School's Out!

The Summer Term has drawn to a close and the first year of our School is now over.

We are looking forward to the opening of our North-West School in September. This has been refurbished to a very high standard and may also be used for some training and meetings.

Holidays and activities have been booked for over the summer, so everyone is looking forward to an enjoyable six weeks break!

Charity

Horizon Care is looking for a charity which we could 'adopt' in order for staff and young people alike to help make a positive contribution to a chosen cause.

We hope to hold some fundraising events, both within each home and the company as a whole over the coming months and into the future.

If any of you have a suggestion for which charity would be suitable, please contact Amanda or Head Office.

Thank you!

Safeguarding Children

Check it out the Young Person's Guide to the Safeguarding Children Review 2008 will let you know what children and young people have said about how safe they feel. The guide provides information about what improvements have been made and what still needs to be improved. A copy of this report is available on request or you can download it yourself from www.safeguardingchildren.org.uk.

Your views on this document can be sent directly to the Children's Rights Director roger.morgan@ofsted.gov.uk or to amanda.knowles@horizoncare.co.uk who will make sure they are forwarded to the relevant people and departments.

A National Voice

A National Voice is an organisation run by and for care experienced young people, with staff who have themselves been in care. Set up in 1999, its main aim is to create positive changes to the care system in England and provide a national platform for approximately 60,000 looked after children and young people, plus a further approx 50,000 care leavers. Its work includes consultation with young people, organising regional and national events for young people and promoting a positive image of young people from care. It works alongside voluntary organisations and local authorities to improve the care system, and raise awareness and promote the rights of young people in and leaving care. Its work is guided by a management committee consisting of young people aged 14 to 24.

Amy at The Arches has been actively involved in regional forums since the beginning of 2008. She attends monthly meetings with other young people from across the region, where they discuss and give their thoughts on many topics relating to young people in care.

As well as making positive contributions to the group meetings, Amy has also attended a First Aid training course and is due to begin a course which will help her on the way to becoming a Buddy for other young people in care.

Well done Amy!

Welcome...

Rob Basford at Windy Arbour House; Ulrich Huenkes, Karl West and Helen Brady at Parklands; John McCaffey at Railway Cottage; Aimee Moore at Garston; Dionne Clarke, Lee Ainsworth, Jo Southern and Lorna Wright at Chaseley.

We hope you will all enjoy working at Horizon Care!

YP Competition

If you can complete the word search using the words below and send the correct answer to Head Office before 1st August, you will earn yourself a £5 voucher!

B	E	A	C	H	C	B	V	H	O	L	I	D	A	Y
U	G	J	S	A	H	N	A	F	G	H	E	J	P	O
C	A	S	D	T	E	F	T	G	H	D	P	V	G	Y
K	Q	W	I	G	H	I	O	P	A	P	I	E	J	J
E	R	E	C	K	J	U	F	D	S	L	C	W	H	H
T	T	Y	E	L	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	E	F
Q	E	U	C	A	Z	Y	X	U	P	F	I	W	W	M
A	E	G	R	Y	U	T	V	N	L	G	C	E	D	N
X	P	L	E	T	I	R	C	T	R	H	G	N	E	B
T	S	P	A	D	E	E	B	A	F	E	K	L	G	T
G	G	L	M	E	N	S	A	N	D	G	S	D	G	H
B	H	K	A	W	M	W	A	T	D	K	G	R	K	Q
E	Y	W	E	Q	M	Q	Z	Y	V	F	M	N	L	F

Beach Bucket Spade Holiday Hat
Ice Cream Sunshine Picnic Suntan Sand

Beyond the call of duty...

Kevin Dougan on a visit to Alton Towers with Blake from Parklands.



Special Mentions

- Congratulations to Irene Chalenor for running the Race for Life again this year on 9th July. Thank you to everyone who offered their support.
- Congratulations to Bonnie Yule who recently got engaged!
- Congratulations to Dennis Fearon, his partner Gemma has recently given birth to a baby boy called Mason!
- Well done to Rebecca for obtaining some AQA awards.
- Well done to Megan for sitting some of her GCSEs!
- Congratulations to Caroline Nilsson-White for completing her NVQ 4!
- Well done to Daniel for beating ALL the Railway staff at snooker!
- Well done to Kayleigh for joining an ASDAN army course.
- Welcome to Joshua at Windy Arbour and Leanne at Garston.
- Congratulations to Brenda O Hare who got married this month!
- An anonymous donation of £25 has been made to Irene Chalenor for completing the Race for Life. We believe that Mick Lloyd has kindly agreed to double the highest donation.

Have Your Say!

Ofsted helps to make sure that children and young people living in children's homes are looked after and cared for properly. It does this by carrying out inspections; you may already have met one of the Ofsted inspectors or seen an Ofsted report about your home.

At the moment inspection reports, about children's homes are not available from the Ofsted website. However, Ofsted is thinking about putting them onto their website and they have asked us to help them find out what you think about that idea.

The reports never contain the names of young people living in the home but they are about how you are cared for so have your say in what happens to them. Some people think this is a good idea and some do not, what do you think?

Please let us know. You can do this by filling in the survey on www.85.234.135.179/index.php?sid=18654 or alternatively send your views to amanda.knowles@horizoncare.co.uk

Green Fingers

Some of the young people and staff have developed a keen interest in cultivating their own organic vegetable patches.

Blake at Parklands, with help from staff has dug out and fenced his own patch in which he has planted seed for courgettes and carrots. His potatoes and radishes have already begun to grow. The staff at The Arches have also dug out a patch and set up a greenhouse in which they have planted carrots, sprouts, courgettes, swedes and radishes. Karen has enjoyed helping staff pick out and buy the seeds for these vegetables. Aaron at Railway has also been helping with the gardening.

Growing your own produce means using less packaging and hence less waste for recycling. It also helps to reduce global warming and is a cheaper, healthier and more exciting way to get your five a day!

Thank You

Linda Croft at Parklands would like to say "thank you to everybody for all their kind thoughts when my son had his bike accident. A special message of thanks to Phil, Mandy and Lisa Pickering for their phone calls of support. A special thank you to Blake for his kind thoughts and all the chocolate. Very special thank you to Mike Knowles and Gillian Walsh, I don't know what I would have done without them, they gave me the strength and support needed to get through this difficult time. I will always be grateful to them."

Mark is now at home recovering.

