

Wednesday 31st July 2019 forum



15 attendees at the summer forum representing 8 Bladon students, and 1 new Bladon student starting after the summer holiday. We were also joined (for the first time) by a social worker visiting one of our residential students.

We also said bye-bye to one of our parents as her son has made such excellent progress at Bladon he is able to return back to Local Authority provision, after being with us for 3 years. What a fantastic outcome for that family.

We had a slightly later start this around (at 11.15am) in order to scoop up late arrivals to the open day and to enable everybody to be present for the entirety of the forum.

We did have a few student interruptions this time around which Bladon staff have been advised about for next time – it's important for the forum that everybody feels they can talk confidently without worrying that little (or big) ears shall overhear what is being said.

Matt Cousins (Head of Care and Registered Manager) spoke about the Care Ofsted inspection that had taken place in June – OUTSTANDING all around!

There were so many positive observations made by the inspection team and it is an outcome we are hugely proud of. Our young people at Bladon are OUTSTANDING individuals.

The full report can be read here: <https://senadgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Bladon-Ofsted-Care-Inspection-Rpt-4-5.06.19.pdf>

Andy Doughty (computing teacher) was introduced to the forum. Andy is working incredibly hard at the moment at not only delivering a high quality curriculum but also on setting up our new Evidence for Learning platform. When E4L is launched it will give us the capabilities to evidence work and activities, link them to progress criteria or EHCP outcomes, and share them with parents, carers and social workers. This will be launched fully to all parents and carers in 2020 but when the time comes for some parents to trial this – the forum attendees have agreed to help out.

Discussions once again took us towards transitions and what happens after Bladon. Tom explained that there is difficulty at the moment getting LAs to commit to year 14 at Bladon House School (or any independent provision) and it was discussed the option of just committing to leaving at the end of year 13 and focusing this time on securing the best next placement. All transition plans are discussed on an individual basis at EHCP and LAC reviews but there is lots that parents/carers could be doing before then. Here are just some ideas:

- Search or ask for your Local Authority "Local Offer" at post 18 / further education provision
- www.natspec.org.uk – a directory of specialist further education
- Make contact for SENDIASS to support you
- Visit and contact prospective colleges – lots of open days happen in the Autumn

We will do everything we can at Bladon to support you through the difficult transition period and leaving Bladon but ultimately we are not the people who can make decisions about what happens next. Bladon is definitely only part of the young persons' journey, not the destination.

As always, thanks to those who attended and for your continued contributions to the forum. The forum is your "school gate" and your chance to speak with other parents and carers with similar questions and experiences.

NEXT FORUM: Christmas Open Day (date TBC) at 11.15am but please arrive for 11am to have time to have a drink and eat the nibbles.