Welcome to the tenth edition of the regular Parents’ Newsletter to keep you updated about Alexandra College, for young people aged 16 to 25. It will also tell you how parents and young people are helping to shape this new service.

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A message from Bob Rose, Head of Alexandra College

It has been a very busy few weeks in the development of Alexandra College. The progress being made on site is good to see - I hardly recognised the building from my last visit!

Our employment process started with a very successful recruitment roadshow event last month held at WKC. MacIntyre staff were there to explain staff development opportunities and support. We had more than 50 visitors during the day.

We have had a couple of very successful interview days held at the WKC King’s Cross Campus last Thursday for our Programme Co-ordinators positions. As you would expect, our interview process was tough – we want to recruit the very best and most capable staff to support our young people. Our candidates had to take part in:

- An informal interview
- Safeguarding test
- A parent focus interview
- A micro-teach in front of WKC learners (a short teaching session)
And finally, a formal panel interview. All three partners in the college were involved: MacIntyre, Westminster Kingsway College and Camden Council officers, as well as Camden health colleagues.

**Check out our next newsletter for more news about our new Programme Co-ordinators!**

We have also started our recruitment process for our Community Learning Facilitators at the estate’s Tenants’ and Residents’ Hall, on top of Alexandra College. This has enabled the candidates to get a real feel for the development and surrounding area.

I have also been busy, working with Lynn Cleary-Pearce, attending 'My Way' transition meetings and I have had the pleasure of meeting some of our future learners and their families. One of our learners and his parents have written about their excitement at coming to Alexandra College – read on to find out what they have to say!

*Bob*

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**A quick update on transitions support**

*From Lynn Cleary-Pearce*

Assessments are well under way and everyone seems really excited by the idea of this new and innovative educational provision.

I have been very busy meeting lots of lovely families, as well as lots of community groups and projects to ensure we have good resources at Alexandra College - so our students have lots of different opportunities to get involved in their community.

I've particularly enjoyed meeting some remarkable young people and undertaking assessments with them. The pre-assessment process is a holistic one - about including everyone close to the young person to ensure he or she gets the very best, personalised curriculum. It's a lovely way of getting to know not only the young people who want to come to Alexandra College but their families and carers as well!

I would just like to say a very big thank you to all the families I have seen so far and to all those I will be seeing soon - your enthusiasm is making my job so enjoyable!
Here’s what one of Alexandra College’s new students had to say about the transitions support (from My Way Facilitator, Lynn Cleary-Pearce):

“The process of getting ready to join the college has been really positive. They had a nice lady come and see me at my home to get the preparations ready for my transition, which is great because I am most comfortable at my house. It’s definitely better than them coming to my current college. I am looking forward to starting my time at my new college, it sounds very nice and the college is making my space special for my needs.”

And here’s what his parents had to say:

As a family of a teenage boy with severe complex needs, we had huge concerns over finding a suitable future college placement for him.

We were invited to attend a seminar outlining the new Alexandra College, opening September 2015 in Camden. This opportunity seemed like a dream come true. Not only would our son be able to learn in his own borough, but the college would cater for all his needs, addressing independent skills, socialising and education. Alexandra College offers him a bespoke learning programme that would give him the tools to reach his potential and develop into a happy productive member of society.

Since naming Alexandra College at his annual review, the whole assessment process has been a pleasure. Lynn, the ‘My Way’ Facilitator, has been so patient and understanding - already our son has built a positive relationship with her and has been able to take part in communicating his needs and wishes for his future at the college.

The Alexandra College teaching and learning ethos is outstanding and needed within the Camden borough, for ours and other much-loved special children.

The Bishop Family

Look out for our next newsletter for more information on Alexandra College!

You can also see past newsletters and find out more information about the College on the Camden website.
Process for applying for places at Alexandra College

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE COLLEGE**

- Talk to your home borough’s SEN service. Arrange to meet MacIntyre staff - before and/or after your child’s annual review in Year 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14

**Young person / parent confirms Alexandra College as preferred provision. Decision made by home borough. SEN consult WKC/ MacIntyre to confirm they can meet needs.**

- 'My Way' co-ordinator supports young person and family to prepare for, and transition into, Alexandra College

**Alexandra College is named provision in final EHC Plan by 31 May 2015 – from 2016 on the deadline will be 15 February**

**Start at Alexandra College in September**

- Parents’ newsletter
  - WKC Prospectus
  - Camden Local Offer website

**Project Manager – Maria Tole**
'‘My Way’ Co-ordinator – Lynn Cleary-Pearce

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