

LinkageNews

The latest developments from the
learning disability charity

40
1976-2016
Linkage

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Sensory Library



**Also Lincoln Campus and
Boultham Park Update**

Welcome to Linkage

As our 40th Year draws to a close I can announce the great news that we have retained our Ofsted 'Good' rating and are about to open our first charity shop.

For me personally it has been an exciting first year as Chief Executive of this amazing organisation, getting to know the fantastic people involved and ensuring that we are fit for the next 40 years.

Merry Christmas everyone!

Valerie Waby

Chief Executive



Cartoon by Philip Williams, Linkage Artist in Residence, to celebrate the end of our 40th anniversary year.

Ofsted Inspection rates Linkage as 'Good'

Linkage College welcomed Ofsted Inspectors to its Weelsby and Toynton Campus's in November, the College's first Inspection since 2013. Following a rigorous inspection process, the college maintained its grade of Good overall, with an additional judgement that Safeguarding is Effective.

Highlights within the report included:

"Students benefit from a good range of wraparound support"

"Teachers are skilled at setting specific tasks which enable students to achieve well"

"Students make very good progress in developing vocational and employability skills"

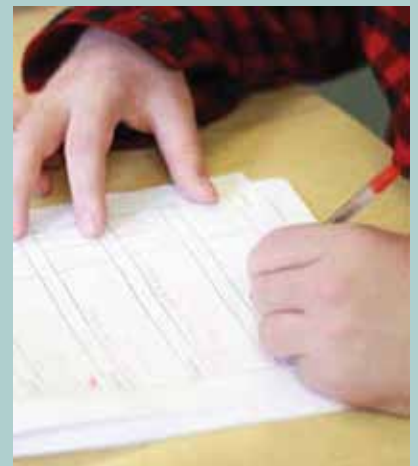
"Teaching, learning and assessment in the workplace is particularly effective"

"Students are developing very good job-specific skills"

Principal, Martin Shelton said, "This result is a great testament to the hard work and dedication of all staff, our new management team and above all our wonderful students.

Our Good rating sustains Linkage's position as a leading provider as an Independent College and clearly demonstrates we are meeting the needs of students, parents and employers through a high quality educational experience"

See more about college on page 6





Boutham Park

A ground breaking ceremony in October marked a historic new chapter for Boutham Park in Lincoln.

The first turf was cut by the Mayor of Lincoln, Yvonne Bodger and local children from Manor Leas Junior Academy (pictured below) who took part in a poster design competition. Guests from Linkage, The City of Lincoln Council, local businesses and the local community gathered at the fountain in the park to celebrate the official start of this exciting project.

The restoration of the 50-acre park is a joint venture between Linkage and City of Lincoln Council which has received a £2.7 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund Parks for People initiative.



Casey Group, the main contractor, started on site in September. The footprint of the new cafe and glasshouse is now visible (see the artist's impression above); the stable block (see cover) is scaffolded and work will continue throughout the winter to convert into an education centre; and the bandstand is currently undergoing specialist restoration off-site and is due back in the park in the spring.

Thank you to everyone who attended the event and for those who have supported the project; we really appreciate your support.



CITY OF
Lincoln
COUNCIL



LOTTERY FUNDED



New mini bus

Linkage has been successful with their application to the Department of Transport, Community Transport Vehicle Fund and has now received the first of two mini buses to support and enhance our new service Linkage@Lincoln offering exciting day time opportunities for people with learning disabilities in Lincoln.

Care Provider of the Year Award

The Skegness Business Awards, organised by Skegness Partnership, took place on 18th November at Southview Park Hotel.

Julia Alderson, Registered Care Manager (left of picture, with Sam Hallgarth) and her team at Rosslyn and St Andrews were nominated for Care Provider of the Year.

Up against strong and diverse competition, we are extremely proud that they finished in the top 3 on the night.

Well done to Julia and the team on their achievement!



Santa Fun Run & Walk



Over 140 people have joined 'Team Linkage' for this festive fundraiser on 11th December in Lincoln. Wishing the team lots of luck!

Christmas Fair



The Adult Skills Christmas Fair was a fun and successful day out in November.

The annual event is held at Louth Town Hall and has raised nearly £600 so far.

Ruby Red Ball



Our Ruby Red Charity Ball held on Saturday 12th November was a huge success.

With 117 guests attending we raised in excess of £5,500.

Special thanks go to Sheila Wardle, parent, whom without her diligent efforts the ball would not have been such a success.

Order now!

Winter hanging baskets



Order yours now!

From £6, featuring a selection of pansies, ivy and primrose.

To order contact:
bloomingbaskets@linkage.org.uk



The **golf day** on 1st July was successful at Blankney Golf Club. Around £3,200 was raised on the day. Next year's event will be on 30th June.

Tastes of Linkage cookery book



Over 200 tried and tested delicious dishes, including:

- Venison and Cranberry Casserole
- Fried Christmas Pudding with Brandy Butter
- Malteser Cake

SALE

Now half price at only £5 (plus postage/packing)

To order contact:
louise.cotton@linkage.org.uk or 01522 503185

Wig & Mitre special Linkage vintage



Why not toast Christmas with a selection of fine French wines?

These have been kindly produced by the Wig & Mitre shop in Lincoln to support Linkage and the Boultham Park Project.

Priced at £6.95 a bottle with 50p of each bottle sold going towards Linkage.

For further information or to order please contact the Wig & Mitre shop on 01522 518197 or wms@wigandmitre.com



Sheila and John Goode (with Wendy Bagshaw, far left) raised £247.60 at a successful car boot sale this summer.



Congratulations to Steve Hogg who raised over £900 for Linkage. His personal challenge was to cycle 100 miles in one day, from Wainfleet through to Boston and onto Lincoln along the Water Rail Way before returning to Wainfleet.

College Prospectus out now

NEW!



Order your copy from:
transition@linkage.org.uk or 01472 372310

OPENING SOON!

Charity shop in Lincoln



Thank you to everyone for the lovely donations we have already received. The first shop will be opening at the Birchwood Centre, Lincoln in mid-December.

See our Facebook page for updates.

Volunteer spaces are still available for anyone willing to offer as little as half a day per week working in the shop. For more details or to apply contact: volunteer@linkage.org.uk

ENROL NOW FOR 2017!

If you have a learning difficulty or disability and want to study, then come to Linkage, Lincolnshire's only college dedicated to you.

We offer vocational study in:

- Horticulture and Conservation
- Catering and Hospitality
- Retail
- Business Administration
- Customer Service
- Sport Leadership
- Small Animal Care
- as well as a range of life and core skills.



Call Sarah on 01472 372303 / 372310 to find out more.

Open Days 2017

Lincoln

Thursday 12th January (10.30am - 4pm)
Thursday 16th February (10.30am - 4pm)
Saturday 11th March (10.30am - 4pm)
Saturday 6th May (10.30am - 4pm)

Boultham Library, Boultham Park Road, Lincoln, LN6 7ST

Grimsby

Saturday 21st January (10.30am - 4pm)
Tuesday 21st March (2-8pm)
Tuesday 16th May (10.30am - 4pm)

Weelsby Campus, Weelsby Road, Grimsby, DN32 9RU

Toynton

Saturday 11th February (10.30am - 4pm)
Thursday 30th March (2-8pm)
Thursday 25th May (10.30am - 4pm)

Toynton Campus, Toynton All Saints, Spilsby, PE23 5AE

Sensory Library

“It spurred us on and gave us the confidence to know it would be beneficial.”

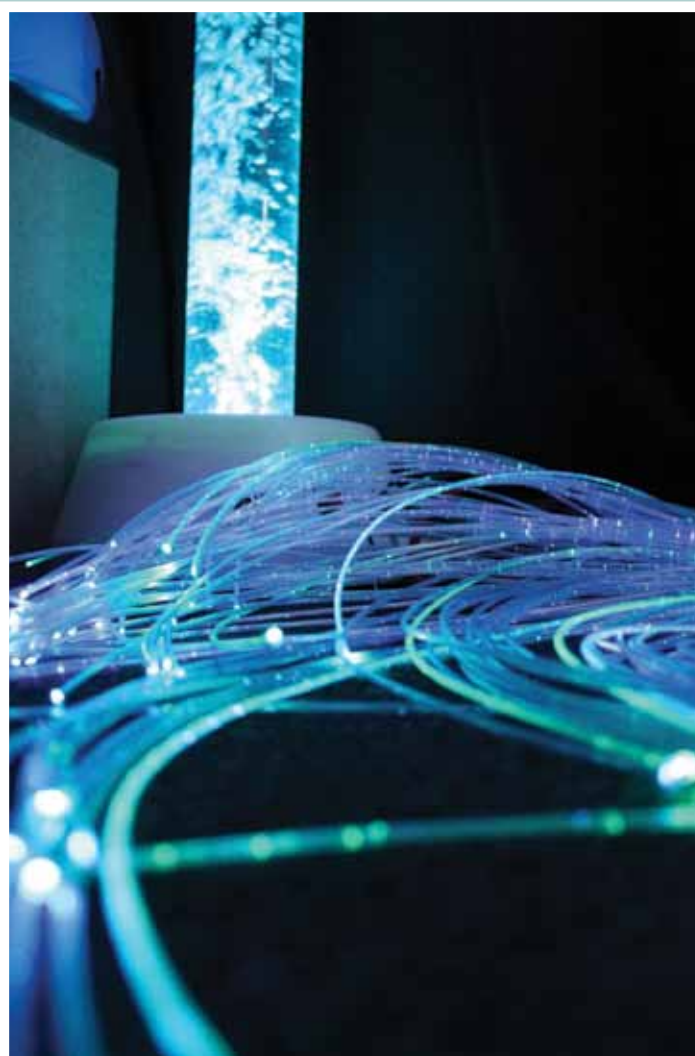
Says Jacky Tyson, Occupational Therapy Technical Instructor, who requested that the Sensory Bus be made available one morning a week for six weeks to work with patients in an alzheimers assessment ward.

They were so impressed that when the team arrived for the third session work had begun on a room at the hospital to install their



Linkage's Sensory Bus is a new service, along with our Sensory Library. The bus is a purple single decker that is serving schools and community groups across Greater Lincolnshire to bring fun, learning and therapeutic benefits.

It carries sensory equipment such as bubble tubes, fibre optics (above right), aromatherapy diffuser and is themed – the themes will change six times a year – it's currently 'Jungle' and will shortly be turned into 'Winter Wonderland' in the run up to Christmas.



own sensory equipment. So when the bus moves elsewhere, the work begun with it will continue.

“If you have any worries you can sit in here and forget them”; “My anxieties disappear, I think about ‘Under the Sea’”. These quotes are from two pupils attending a special school about the effect of the bus on them.

It's still early days for the Sensory Bus but it has been well received and we have laid firm foundations we can build on. We continue to loan items from our Sensory Library and to work with new people and groups around the county.

If you would like the Sensory Bus to visit your community group or school, please contact Niz Smith on 01522 503187.

“ If you have any worries you can sit in here and forget them ”

And finally

Linkage Green Cafe Wins Mablethorpe in Bloom Award for Third Year Running



Above L-R: Adam Turner, Darren Start and Alex Rainey. Not pictured are Aiden Maltby and Liam Bolton

Students Darren Start and Adam Turner with Adult Skills instructor, Ian Patrick, were once again delighted to attend the Mablethorpe in Bloom awards at Louth Hotel on the 6th October to receive the award for the Best Commercial Premises.

"We are very fortunate and proud as this is the third year we have won an award," says Ian.

The students work all year in preparing the grounds, maintaining the bowling green and making plans for the floral arrangements, putting forward their ideas. They have also made an assortment of wooden items including a giant deckchair, bucket and spade, pirate ship and ferris wheel.

Contact Us

Prefer this newsletter emailed to you?

Contact: marketing@linkage.org.uk or phone 01522 503189 with your email address.

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