

# FRIDAY 6TH JAN 2023

*With Lavinia Donling*

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

Happy New Year to you all! For some reason, I thought it would be a gentle start back into the new term, but it has been busy since we opened on Tuesday 3rd of January. I wonder how many of you stayed up to welcome the New Year in, or have made new resolutions for 2023? We did stay up till midnight, and, despite the rain, was able to watch fireworks lit by others on midnight, which was nice as we were in the dry and warmth unlike others who were bravely lighting in the elements! New Year resolutions are a tricky one - finding more time for EPS would be lovely, getting my summerhouse up would be great so I can write in the secret garden, walking the dogs more would be fab, doing more road shows is a definite plan, networking with more people (of course), and naturally helping more families!



## ANNUAL REVIEWS

This week has been not only writing up assessments and screenings, but also annual reviews. I really like doing these, even though they are a big piece of work. You want to see how effective the outcomes are and what has been achieved, even though the outcomes might need to remain in place for another year. These are then followed up within a couple of weeks, at most, with the Annual Review. In the latest one, a Local Authority challenged that if I was not doing direct work with the young person (a very young person at that I might add), why should they pay for me to continue. I did not get a chance to respond as the lead Educational Psychologist jumped in and stated that without my partnership working directly with the parents and Tutors, none of this would have happened in the progress made. Then the Lead Tutor added their agreement, and finally Mum got a word in, before the LA asked if I would send in another quote. Naturally, we are very excited to be invited to support this family for a 2nd year given the progress we have made.



I think that is what I get excited about the New Year, and again by the new academic year, is that as we continue to evolve, we get the opportunity to define and refine our progress and ensure it is where we wish to be heading, and to continue heavily advocating for our young people. I am reminded that life is never perfect, and frequently challenging, which 2022 has been incredibly challenging for so many of us. Yet, there are moments of real success which encourages us to 'keep going', even the small success stories, as they pave the way for bigger success stories.

Parents have been very generous with their compliments of TMW being a "beacon of light", "my child was able to engage with you so well", and "you are the one that helps me understand my child". Yet, whilst I may appear modest, I cannot take all the credit. Yes, I am in love with my job. Yes, I am very passionate about making a difference. Yes, I am strong minded and focused on TMW helping more families. But none of this would have been possible if clients had not engaged with me, or recommended us to their friends and families, or made progress if they had not trusted in our partnership.

So, a big thank you to so many of you kind enough to engage with our services, promote us and support us as we continue to build and grow. You are all amazing!

*Lavinia*