

SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 2023

With Lavinia Donling

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Thank you so much for all your birthday wishes! So many kept Birthday wishes kept coming over facebook over the week. Even in my sessions with clients, I was asked about my special day. I am very touched by so many of you enquiring as well as so many Birthday wishes. This year, I actually wanted to celebrate my Birthday, despite getting older, which is unusual for me. I have managed to do a little bit each day, although Friday was initially spent attending the Llandudno Education exhibition, and Saturday was at the Vintage Rally in Oswestry which was fun. Monday (my actual Birthday) was spending my first session as a Consultant to advise on a film around Mental Health and Autism. This was initially nerve racking, but, in the words of Richard Branson, 'just say yes' and worry about it afterwards. It was a really positive experience, so I am looking forward to further sessions with this client.



EOTAS REJECTION

This week we were disappointed to learn that a young person who has very poor mental health and unable to attend any form of education was turned down for an EOTAS package by the Local Authority.



Yet, in the same week, the same LA not only paid for a Mental Health assessment and Initial Screening, but also a whole package of care. This is utterly bizarre and makes no sense. If my recommendations are complete recovery for a young person who has been so traumatized by school, it needs to be followed through with one option - an EOTAS package. There has been a big day out in London this week to put forward a petition of signatures from parents to say that alternative

provisions (ie a selection to reflect the needs) have to be provided. If I am recommending EOTAS, I do not make this decision lightly, and will ensure I have provided as much evidence as possible to show why the care is needed. Yet, mental health seems to be regularly dismissed by some professionals within the LA. We need to keep fighting and raising awareness, which for many parents going to Tribunal to appeal.

YASMIN'S OUT OF OFFICE ADVENTURE

This week has been exceptionally busy for Yasmin, our Social Media Manager. Yasmin, as some of you might know, has been attending college over the last year, and was encouraged to apply for work experience with the BBC and Warner Brothers Studio. She got offered both, but both also wanted her to work this week. Yasmin chose to split her time between both working as a Volunteer and being paid. The BBC was working as a Volunteer and appeared to be a much smaller production set, unlike Warner Brothers Studio who had several sights over the Isle of Anglesey and Snowdonia! Yasmin has taken to it like a duck to water - I fear we are going to lose her soon - as she has been determined to attend every day despite very long hours (10-12 hrs with early starts) and having to talk and engage with strangers (normally enough to cause an immediate melt down). She is very tired, but very excited to have found her vocation.

FUNDRAISING

This week and last week has seen considerable fund raising. Ron, our Non Executive Director, was very busy taking photographs whilst on holiday in Spain a couple of weeks ago, and sold several photos. He donated a large amount of money to us, having donated a very hefty amount in January! My sincere thanks, Ron, as ever. You are amazing with your fund raising energy.



Tomorrow morning, I will be in Shropshire - Overton Recreation Park to be exact - as we are doing a Tractor drive as a way of fundraising. Charlotte -, our Accountant, tells me there are currently 20 tractors entered into the fundraising drive!!! Awesome! Thank you so much! Anybody attending tomorrow morning, it starts at 10am and we will be there cheering you on.

Have a good weekend everyone!

Lavinia