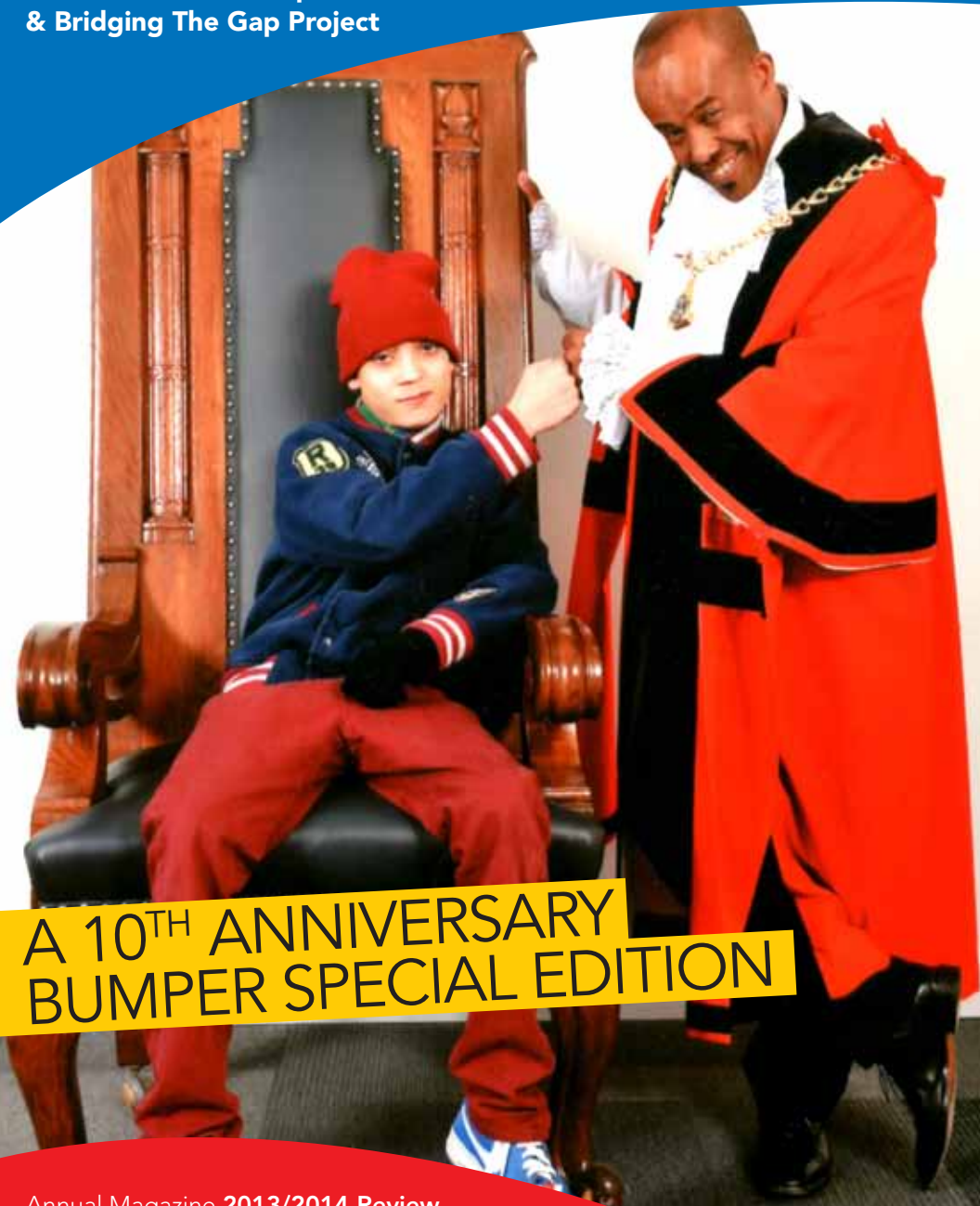


# HolibrookTimes

Holibrook House, Hopewell School  
& Bridging The Gap Project



A 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
BUMPER SPECIAL EDITION

Annual Magazine 2013/2014 Review

# Welcome

In October 2013 Holibrook celebrated its 10th anniversary...

On reaching any milestone one pauses to reflect on among other things what has changed and what remains the same. One obvious change is that over the years we have grown like any living organism does, including all the pains and excitement associated with growth.

However, when we look back we realise some things haven't changed, the personality, purpose and passion formed in the early years still characterise us today. Although the journey has not been easy it has certainly been adventurous, our drive above everything else has been to RESTORE HOPE and that still remains at the heart of everything we do.

Anniversaries are not just for looking back, but for looking forward too. We remember **Nelson Mandela** at this time particularly,

who said, *"After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more to climb."* And so we move forward with anticipation and courage, knowing that the needs of the young people are greater now than when we begun, but so too is our commitment and resolve.

**This special edition of Holibrook Times charts some of the milestones we have reached along the way in our 10 years of history, the highs and lows, the challenges and triumphs. This magazine will also as usual elaborate on our journey this year, which is designed to give a flavour of the achievements, particularly of our young people and staff. We trust you will find the read enjoyable and be encouraged as much as we are.**

**Herman Allen** CEO

## 10th Anniversary Jubilation: Departure from the Norm!

A grand dinner cruise down the River Thames on a balmy autumn night ... staff and young people decked to the nines ... cool jazz ... and the mesmerizing ripples in the river was the unique way in which we chose to celebrate our 10th anniversary. This was no ordinary cruise. **Water** at Holibrook House & Hopewell Schools epitomises our therapeutic ethos. It was therefore only fitting to mark the end of one decade and the beginning of another hope filled decade by sailing the waters.

Young people held their own ... they danced with no reservations and 'let their hair down', showing the older folk how it's done these days.

They confidently mingled with guests and told their stories of success proudly. One in particular drew a deafening applause when he charmingly pulled a rose out of his pocket like a suave gentleman. He presented it to a member of staff from his home to honour what she does for him.

Staff, too, told us how their own lives had changed since they joined us. One member of staff spoke victoriously about how he had come into his own, relating tales of trips to New York and a meeting with the Mayor. Hope and fulfilled dreams came to the fore ... he told us how he dreamt of a trip to Ghana with young people and how Holibrook made his dream come true.

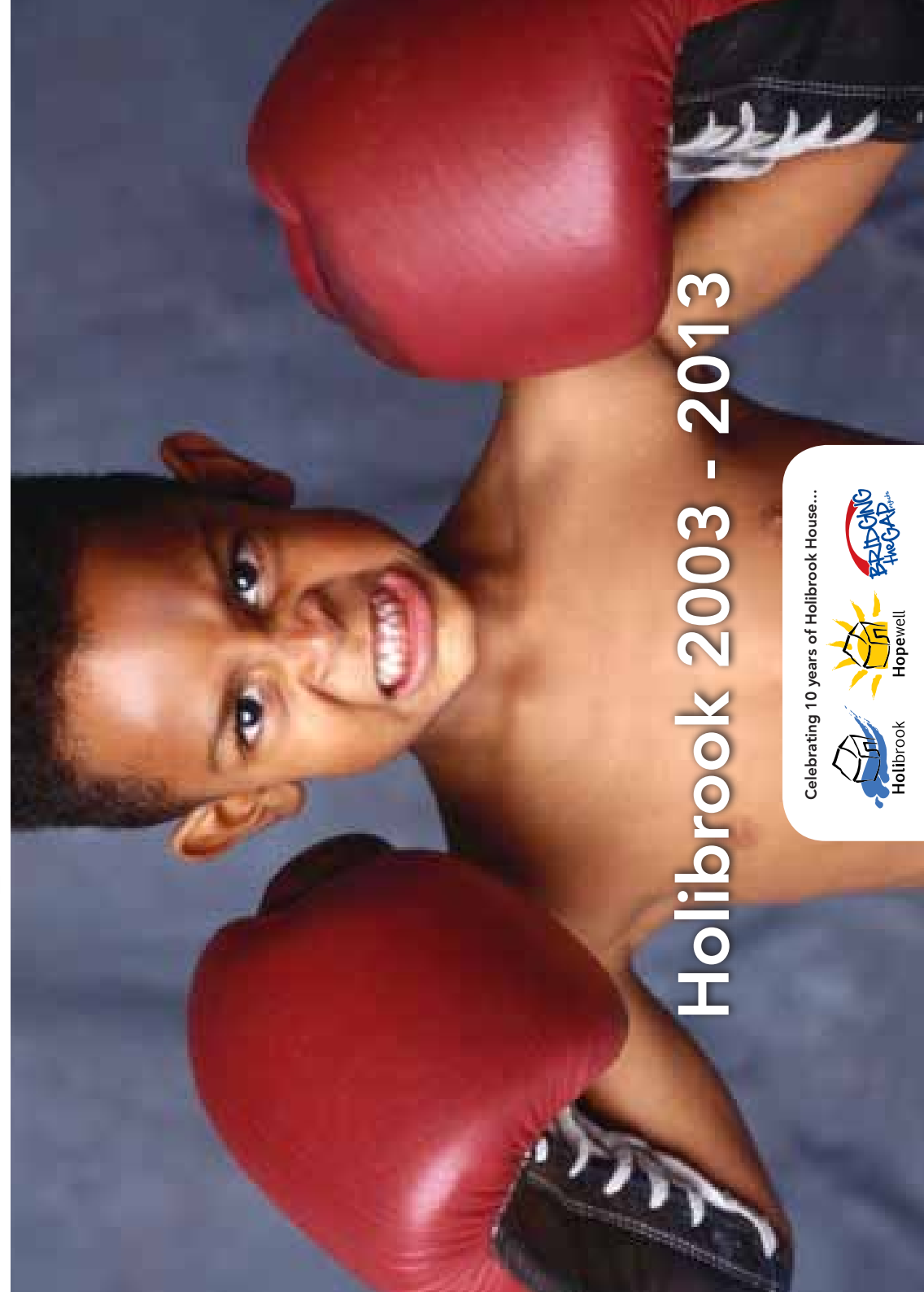


After a buffet dinner, things turned to more serious matters when a keynote speaker touched on the power of hope ... hope which is a pillar of our vision, the 3 R's ... restoring hope, releasing potential and rebuilding lives.

A metaphorical 10 round boxing match that had guests riveted to the stage told the story of where we started and where we are today. (see following pages for further details of this historic boxing match). Needless to say we are still fighting fit!



Earlier in the day a more serious affair commemorated our history. A thanksgiving service was held at Harmony House. Soulful singing, prayers and speeches captured the essence of gratitude for changed lives. Young people rose to the occasion and told us gripping stories of how they were when they arrived and how remarkably their destiny changed from then.



# Holibrook 2003 - 2013

Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...

# ROUND 1

## 2003/2004

Commentary on round:  
"Put on gloves and started fight against determined opponent"

- Neighbours protest to stop planning for children's home - signed petitions/ front page articles
- Opened first children's home Holibrook - Monteagle (Oct. 2003)



# ROUND 2

## 2005

Commentary on round:  
"A good round with use of left jab to extend reach"

- Took over "The Cradle" a failing children's home in South London
- Refurbished and reopened the home as Holibrook - Bartram



Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



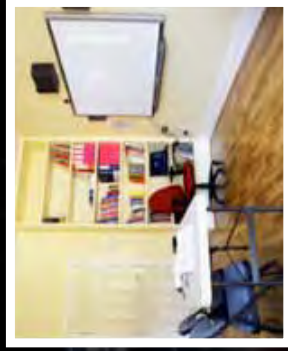
Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 3 2006

Commentary  
on round:  
"Took the fight  
to opponent  
with quick fire  
combinations"

- Opened a 2nd children's home in Barking, Holibrook - Strathfield
- Opened first school in Strathfield home - Hopewell School
- Head office moved out of home to Technopark, Tottenham



Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 4 2007

Commentary  
on round:  
"Started round  
well, but hits canvas  
after fierce left hook  
from opponent"



- Opened first 16+ children's home Holibrook - Matlock
- After constant expansion failed Ofsted inspection in children's home

Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 5 2008

Commentary on round:  
"Still shaken from last round, opponent ahead on points but determined fight back begins"

- Year of consolidation - first year no new facility added
- All homes return to 'good' Ofsted rating



Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 6 2009

Commentary on round:  
"Challenging round where both fighters delivered some hard punches"

- Started looking at becoming a Therapeutic community. STREAM our therapeutic model is birthed
- First 'Outstanding' Ofsted achieved by organisation for Holibrook - Monteagle
- Hopewell School in Strathfield relocated to Harmony House, Dagenham
- Registered Hopewell School - Bartram
- Started sponsoring CLIPE (Kenya)
- Distinguished staff member Alf James a passionate and outstanding staff member dies



Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 7 2010

Commentary on round:  
"Both fighters realised no quick wins and dug in for long fight"

- Christine Bradley joined Holibrook as Consultant Psychotherapist
- Financial challenges
- Presentation of first Alf James award to outstanding staff member

Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 8 2011

Commentary on round:  
"Fighter looks to wear down opponent by more consistent and accurate punches"

- Started "Bridging the Gap" Project
- BTG Learning Mentors placed in schools
- 'Outstanding' Ofsted achieved by Hopewell School - Bartram

Celebrating 10 years of Holibrook House...



# ROUND 9 2012

Commentary  
on round:  
"Fighter  
maintained  
good stamina  
and punches  
throughout  
the round"

- Developed Code of Honour
- First Educational trip to Ghana
- Opened Holibrook - 16+ (Connaught)
- Registered Hopewell School - Willesden
- Started sponsoring Operation Restoration (Jamaica)



# ROUND 10 2013

Commentary  
on round:  
"The fight  
goes on..."

- Hopewell School  
Bartram relocated to Belmont
- Hopewell School  
Harmony House rated as  
'Outstanding' by Ofsted



# On to other shimmering matters!

## Tin... Tin...

Usually the symbol used to celebrate a 10th anniversary is tin. We, too, draw on this symbol to mark our 10th anniversary. In particular, we mark the significance of relationships in our therapeutic work done through our model, **STREAM (Strong Therapeutic Restoring Environment and Assessment Model)**.

Relationships are a fundamental cornerstone to our therapeutic model. We, therefore, celebrate the achievements that have been wrought about through these relationships. When children and young people come to us, we pledge to give them our all, dedicate and commit ourselves completely to making their lives better.

Sn

STREAM

## Achievements: Pure Gold...

### Budding Lewis Hamiltons: Steely determination!

Every Monday, key stage 4 pupils don their overalls, pull on their steel toe-capped boots and apply themselves with steely determination to rebuilding donated cars into racing machines. Not only do they have an opportunity to 'fiddle' around with racing cars as guys usually love to do, but they also have an opportunity to drive them! Potential Hamiltons in the making!

Two young people from one of our homes gleamed under the Mayor's acknowledgement of their achievement in education at the Southwark LAC award. See here and our great cover photo!



## No longer discarded metal: Glistening in the sun

Marginalisation and exclusion from everyday functions in schools for our children and young people fade into the distance when they step across our thresholds. An example is a young person from one of our homes who was elected Deputy Head boy at his school.

## Shiny stars in the making!

Not only do our children and young people start to have access for the first time in their lives to 'ordinary' day-to-day school experiences, they also step into new realms outside of school. Two young people recently participated in a performance of the Merchant of Venice at the Globe Theatre, and one now has a starring role on Channel 4's Top Boy.



## Flattening crumpled tin!

Some pupils have taken to karate to keep in shape and to learn essential self-control. Twice weekly they don their gloves and learn how to spar and defend themselves.

## Shiny Halloween Terrors!

An exciting Halloween party arranged by key stage 4 pupils for younger pupils was highly successful. Staff and pupils arrived at school in ghoulish costumes. It is still not clear whether staff took greater delight in 'dressing up' than pupils!



## Tin-clanging fun: going bananas in pyjamas: Children in Need Fundraising

Rip roaring tin-clanging fun ... younger pupils attended school in pyjamas as part of a fundraiser for Children in Need. Together with other efforts on the day a significant amount was raised for those less fortunate than us.



# More jubilation!

We were pleased as punch with the results of an inspection of our school based at Harmony House. **Outstanding ...outstanding...outstanding!**

We secured an overall outstanding grade and outstanding grades in all categories! Here's a flavour of what was reported (the full Ofsted report has been published on the Ofsted website):



*Pupils' achievement is outstanding ... pupils make outstanding progress in their behaviour and personal development. The provision for pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding ... teaching is outstanding. The outstanding curriculum is uniquely based on a tri-partite model made of therapeutic, academic and vocational strands ... The provision for pupils' welfare, health and safety is outstanding ... Leadership and management are outstanding... and enable pupils to achieve extremely well ... The proprietors ensure that the therapeutic education values that underpin the school ethos are adapted consistently by all adults working at the school...*

# Sparkling new school

**Our 10th year saw the continuance of remarkable growth in our schools.**

Earlier this year we added a new school to our services. **Hopewell School (Belmont)** commenced in Lewisham after a successful Ofsted inspection.



Already, pupils are making **outstanding** progress. Set in the heart of Lewisham this school is easily accessible to a number of Local Authorities in London.

# Gallivanting again: across the seas aboard an aluminium 'bird'!



Last year's trip to Ghana was a resounding success so much so that this year staff and young people took to globe-trotting again to Ghana. Last year one of the young people was so profoundly affected that he re-examined his plans for his future and has since started attending university (studying Business).

This year, young people again engaged with children at school and those residing in children's homes in Ghana.

It was hard work! They spent time learning how to make kente which is a famous African cloth and they learnt real life skills and practiced trading the African way.

It wasn't all hard physical work ... it was also hard emotional work ... they visited the Slave Castle in Cape Coast and were heartsore when they heard about the plight of slaves.

A meeting with the British Ambassador to Ghana increased their awareness of links between Britain and Ghana. But, there was also fun. Young people improved their team skills when they embarked on exciting team building exercises.

It's time for a reciprocal visit! As part of an exchange programme, children from the Angel Educational Complex in Ghana, which our young people visited, will be visiting us in the new year.





Outstanding Staff Member

## The Alf James Award

Congratulations to Cliff Skinner, this year's winner of our prestigious Alf James Award for his outstanding contribution. In addition to being an inspirational and valuable member of staff at our Dagenham school, Cliff has also represented Hopewell School at a Peer Review of another Therapeutic Community. He has shown loyalty, devotion, a passion for his job and a willingness to go the extra mile. A parent's comment sums up his contribution, "Mr Skinner is an amazing man who has managed to turn my son's life around since being in his class!"

## Sparkling new opportunities!

BTG (Bridging the Gap, our volunteering arm) continues to make inroads into mentoring young people both in our schools and homes and also in other schools across London. This year together with Meadow projects, BTG is providing apprenticeship opportunities for young people. Self-esteem workshops run by volunteers are also having a marked impact on the lives of young people.

In a partnership with The Princes Trust, using a programme 'From Care to Independence', BTG aims to make a difference to those who are leaving or have left care. Support and guidance will be offered to make a successful transition to better futures.



**BRIDGING GAPS  
BUILDING PROSPECTS  
BRIGHTENING FUTURES**

## Like a Cat on a hot tin roof

Featured among the many talents that our children and young people have, is writing. Some of them are like cats on hot tin roofs, flitting here, there and everywhere with inspirational and insightful masterpieces. One of our young people reached the last stages of the UK Poetry Library Competition which included submissions by leading poets internationally. Her poem is to be included in UK Poetry Library Rhyming Poets of 2013. Holbrook Times is proud to be the first to publish her poem as follows...



## A Dog's Love

A dog is a giver of love  
Through no speech, merely senses  
It looks for appreciation through its actions  
Though with no guaranteed return of care

But what if the dog gets badly treated  
By an owner with no remorse  
Through its loyalty it can't run or hide  
It just waits for everyday's tide

He is shouted at for doing things wrong,  
Although neighbours they just hear a song  
He is beaten, he is hurt,  
he can't sleep in his bed  
And in the end is left for the dead

But then one day he finds  
the strength to leave,  
To stand up for what he believes,  
He's never wanted much,  
not a mansion as such,  
Now all he looks for is wood to touch

Along many roads, the dog he walks,  
No-one tries to stop and talk  
He's tired and sad  
and his coat looks too bad,  
But there's no food or home to be had

He gets used to it, surviving all by himself  
Though he hides his longing for care  
As the nights grow colder  
and the winter draws in  
He can't help but grow downcast and thin

Life carries on and people pass along  
But for him, the time doesn't move  
He's lost all sense of interest,  
though he doesn't know why,  
And each night as he curls up he cries

Then one day, he wakes up to find,  
A little girl sitting down by his side  
He jumps up with a yelp  
and takes many steps back,  
To try to figure if she's hiding a sack

He's confused and cautious  
at this strange experience,  
And is unsure to sit on  
which side of the fence,  
He plucks up the courage  
to take a step forward  
But if scared, he'll fight for his own good

The only movement the girl makes  
is to smile with her teeth,  
And turn to show such beautiful eyes  
With this, he finds a feeling  
he's never felt before  
And he can feel it right down to the core.

Then he finds himself asking  
such a plain simple question,  
Is this what people call love?



# Glistening abroad!



We continue to take pride in supporting projects abroad, CLiPE (Juja, Nairobi) and Operation Restoration (Jamaica). Both these projects grow from strength to strength with steely relentlessness on improving the quality of lives of their children and young people.

In Juja, we were saddened when we heard that lives had been lost through drinking contaminated water. But, Juja is resilient and we were reassured when our support made it possible for the purchase of water filters.

We are proud of our Jujaian villagers, who under the guidance of the Project Director, Susan Mwaniki, are making hand bags and purses to earn an income.

Further afield in Jamaica, Project Director, Lorna Stanley continues with her sterling efforts to make a difference in not just the school but the community in Trenchtown. In a recent visit to the UK Lorna spent time in our schools, among other things, speaking to staff and observing in our schools to procure best practices which she can adopt in her project.

"The quality of education is outstanding...  
the curriculum is outstanding"

(Ofsted, March 2011)

## Outstanding Therapeutic Homes and Schools Now Have Vacancies!

"I prefer it [residential home] to any  
of the other places I have been"

(Young person to Ofsted inspector)

"The schools... transform students' learning experiences  
resulting in outstanding progress in both their personal  
and academic lives" (Ofsted, March 2011)

### What's New!

New SEBD school in West London

Expanding SEBD schools in East & South London

If you would like to find out more...

Call our Head Office on: 020 8880 4044

→ [www.holibrookhouse.co.uk](http://www.holibrookhouse.co.uk)

→ [www.hopewellschool.co.uk](http://www.hopewellschool.co.uk)



PREMIER  
LONDON  
PROVIDER



Holibrook



Hopewell

# Polishing tins and a cuppa tea!

Achievements and participation are not limited to staff and young people. A recently commenced parent support group has gained overwhelming support from parents and carers.

Over a cuppa tea and tasty treats, parents and carers 'polish their tins'; they share their triumphs and struggles and offer insightful, experience-based strategies to each other.



## Children's homes

[www.holibrookhouse.co.uk](http://www.holibrookhouse.co.uk)

Holibrook House: Monteagle Avenue, Barking  
Holibrook House: Strathfield Gardens, Barking  
Holibrook House: Bartram Road, Brockley  
Holibrook 16+ Homes: Leyton & Leytonstone



## Schools

[www.hopewellschool.co.uk](http://www.hopewellschool.co.uk)

Hopewell School: Dagenham  
Hopewell School: Brockley  
Hopewell School: Willesden



## Bridging the Gap Projects

[www.btgprojects.org.uk](http://www.btgprojects.org.uk)

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**For more information contact:** Yvonne Miller  
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