

# JEP Youth Engagement Newsletter

December 2025



I would like to send to you all my very best wishes for the holiday period and the new year ahead.

As you will see from our newsletter, we have enjoyed an action-packed and joyous Autumn term. The theatre and pantomime trips, rewards visits, charity day celebrations, Duke of Edinburgh walks and Forest School events have all showcased the high standards our young people achieve through their hard work and the excellent support provided by all JEP staff.

The end of term is a moment to reflect and to be grateful for all those who serve the JEP Youth Engagement community – our exceptional colleagues at JEP, and all of the local authorities, schools and businesses who work alongside us.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to you, the parents and carers of our young people; your support for the values and work of the provision is a fundamental part of our success.

I hope you enjoy this term's newsletter and wish you all a peaceful, restorative holiday and a positive start to the year ahead.

Jason Whittaker  
Head of Secondary Provisions



## Important Reminders

### Phones

YPs are expected to hand in their phones on arrival to centre and YPs can collect their phone at the end of the session. During this time, phones will be safely locked away in a cupboard.

### Vapes

Vapes are banned. It is illegal for YPs under 18 to vape. Vapes in use will be confiscated and not returned.



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EDUCATING THE  
MIND WITHOUT  
EDUCATING THE  
HEART IS NO  
EDUCATION AT ALL.



During this term, our incredible counselling team has delivered support in over 50 schools nationwide, working with more than 500 individuals each week. These figures reflect not only the increasing demand for counselling support, but also the trust placed in our service by schools, families, and partner organisations.

As the term draws to a close, we have taken time to reflect not only on the scale of our provision, but on the meaningful and lasting impact this work continues to have on the lives of children, young people, and adults. The counselling delivered this term has contributed to improved emotional wellbeing, increased resilience, and the positive shaping of future outcomes.

I am immensely proud to witness how far JEP Counselling has grown and to recognise the dedication, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by our practitioners across the country

Michael Watt  
Head of Counselling

## SUCCESS STORIES AND STUDENT FEEDBACK

"I'm surprised, I didn't think counselling would change anything at all but I actually feel motivated now and it has helped. I usually don't like talking to anyone about myself" "Counselling has taught me to talk about my feelings and I'm now talking to my parents a lot more. It's also helped me let myself be vulnerable in front of my mates and cry"

"The counselling you have given me has changed my life. I didn't have any confidence and I felt really sad all of the time. You have taught me to build my confidence and this has helped me so much. Thank you for listening to me and understanding me."

"Our young people are very fortunate to have someone like yourself working with them, Cheryl. I've worked with therapeutic support/counselling teams in the past and none of them come close to the compassion, effort and therapeutic level that you put in, so thank you, 😊 I really appreciate your determination to keep Brinscall so high in your schedule. Again, very much appreciated!"

"One student was very reluctant to speak to any adult or external service, he didn't even speak during our first session while playing with play doh. Now, he is talking to me about his family and things he enjoys. School also say he has come out of his shell and is moving on to more specialised trauma therapy in the new year and the therapist is wanting some tips for building a relationship with him. Another student said he felt comfortable to tell me things he has only told his mum. I feel so privileged."

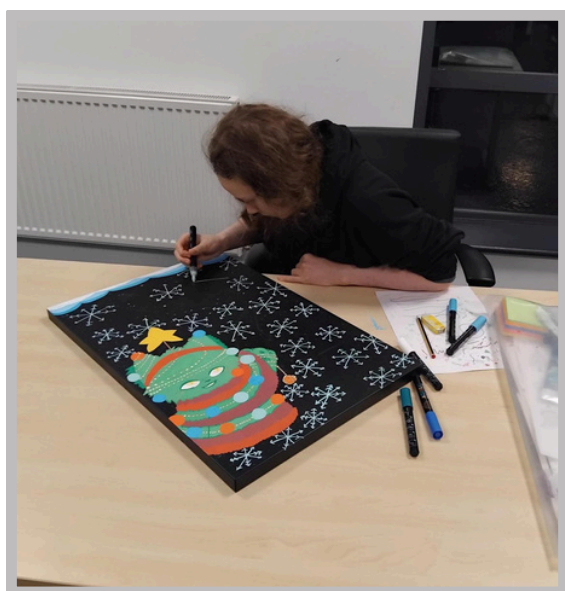
"We can't thank JEP enough for the support that they offer the students at our school. All of our students engage with JEP in a way that they don't with other services. They get a lot from their sessions and the progress that we see before and after is very clear."



# My Future

As we move into the festive season, we're pleased to share another positive month within My Future.

The young people have continued to make meaningful strides, supported by calm routines, structured sessions and a focus on building confidence at their own pace.



In the lead-up to Christmas, we're planning a range of gentle, enjoyable activities that give our young people the chance to experience the season in a way that feels safe, predictable and fun. From low-sensory festive tasks to outdoor winter walks, our aim is to create moments that feel special without overwhelming

We're also proud to see steady growth across the service, with more families and professionals recognising the impact My Future is having. This continued trust means a great deal to us, and we remain committed to offering high-quality, personalised support.

Thank you for your ongoing interest in the work we're doing. W



# Food Drive

Our YP's took part in a Food Drive in November. They worked together to sort and pack bags filled with essential items for people in need. They showed great teamwork and organisation as they organised, and prepared donations, making sure each bag was packed with a thoughtful note from each Young Person.

Once everything was ready, our YP's delivered the bags to Emmaus Bolton, Horwich Foodbank, and Urban Outreach. Meeting the staff and seeing where the donations were going helped them understand the real impact of their efforts. It was a rewarding experience that strengthened their sense of community and kindness.



The JEP Youth Engagement Primary Food Drive was a heartwarming success, bringing our community together in support of those in need. Thanks to the generosity of our staff and families, we collected and donated 25 bags of food to Urban Outreach.

The donation was personally delivered by one of our dedicated KS2 students alongside Rebecca McDonald, representing the spirit of compassion and leadership we strive to nurture at JEP. Their efforts helped ensure that the food reached local families who need it most. We're incredibly proud of everyone who contributed to making this drive meaningful. Together, we continue to show what a caring and connected community can achieve.



# Theatre Trips

This Christmas at JEP our students enjoyed two wonderful theatre trips that brought classic stories to life and filled the mornings with excitement, laughter, and learning.



## KS3 Visits Albert Halls for 'The Adventures of Peter Pan'

KS3 pupils set off on a magical journey to see The Adventures of Peter Pan pantomime — and they absolutely loved it! The performance was bursting with energy, humour, and plenty of audience participation. There were smiling faces all around as students laughed along with the cast and enjoyed the colourful staging and lively songs. Staff were incredibly proud of how brilliantly KS3 represented the school, showing excellent behaviour throughout the trip.

## KS4 Experience 'A Christmas Carol' at Octagon Theatre

Meanwhile, KS4 attended a performance of A Christmas Carol, an experience that not only entertained but also enriched their understanding of Charles Dickens' timeless text. Seeing the story unfold on stage helped deepen their appreciation of its themes, characters, and historical context. It was a valuable and engaging opportunity that connected beautifully with their English studies.



Both trips were thoroughly enjoyable mornings out, filled with festive spirit and meaningful experiences. A big well done to all students for their enthusiasm, maturity, and fantastic attitude —what a wonderful way to end the term!



# Life Skills

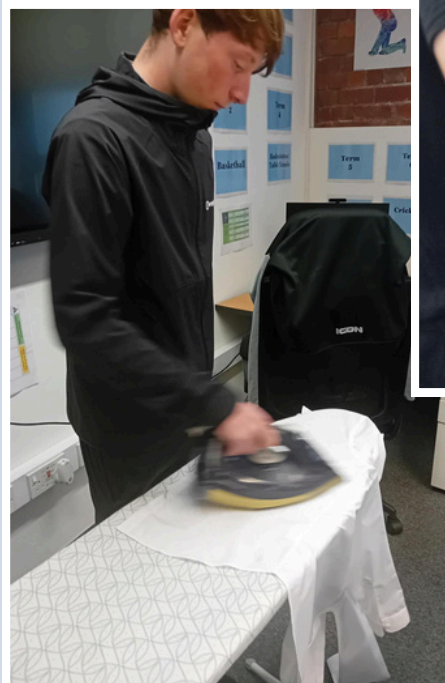


This term, Life Skills has been a busy and enjoyable subject, with a strong focus on cooking and developing practical skills for everyday life. Our Year 11 students have been making excellent progress towards their qualification, growing in confidence, independence, and their ability to prepare meals safely and successfully

This term whilst cooking with Fahat, we have been exploring traditional Somali dishes such as Pineapple Upside-down Cake as a special tribute to his country. The sessions have been a wonderful opportunity for students to learn new cooking skills, experience different cultures, and celebrate Somali heritage through food.

Some of the skills we have focused on this term include; Chopping techniques, Kitchen Safety, Baking Methods and an Introduction to Nutrition. The YP's have made dishes such as Thai Green Curry, Sausage Rigatoni, Burgers as well as a lot of Triple Chocolate Brownies.

We have also been teaching the students how to iron, guiding them through correct techniques and important safety steps, while helping them build a valuable life skill they can confidently use well into the future.



# CHILDREN IN NEED



On Friday 14th November, our staff and young people at JEP Youth Engagement proudly came together to support Children in Need.

The centre was full of colour and excitement as staff embraced the theme by wearing yellow and/or spots, helping to raise awareness of such an important cause.

To add to the day's fundraising efforts, our team rolled up their sleeves and baked a fantastic selection of cakes. These were enjoyed by everyone on site, and the generosity shown through donations contributed to our fundraising total. It was a wonderful opportunity for our young people to see the impact of community spirit and charitable giving in action.

The event was not only fun but also meaningful, reminding us all of the importance of supporting children and families across the UK. We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part and helped make the day a success.

Thank you to all staff and young people for your enthusiasm and kindness. Together, we made a real difference!"





# ODD SOCKS DAY



On Thursday 13th November, JEP Youth Engagement took part in Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week

Staff embraced the theme with colourful, quirky, mismatched socks, creating a positive atmosphere that celebrated individuality and promoted kindness. Their participation sparked conversations with young people about respect, acceptance, and supporting one another.

We're proud to support Anti-Bullying Week and continue promoting a culture of inclusion and kindness

## REWARDS TRIPS

Our students recently had their end of term rewards trip which this term was GO KARTING. This trip is an opportunity for students to be recognized not only for their academic success but also for their commitment to showing up and giving their best each day.

To qualify for the Rewards Trip, students must meet the following criteria:

- Score a 3 or above on our JEP way scores which is monitored on behaviour and engagement.
- Maintain at least 75% attendance

These requirements reflect our belief that consistent effort—both in learning and in attendance—plays a big role in student growth. We want to encourage students to take pride in their progress and to understand that their dedication truly pays off.

The trip provided a fun, memorable experience, giving students a chance to build positive connections with peers and staff outside the classroom setting. It's also a wonderful way for us to recognize and celebrate their achievements in a meaningful way.

