

VIBE



Issue 10

November 2020

VIBE Newsletter May

What an interesting year we are having so far! I hope you are all managing to keep safe and well in this ever-changing world. We as a team are definitely getting used to the new norm!

Exciting news

In April, Angela Dixon, who was one of our Early Years Visual Impairment Play Specialists (EYVIPS), was successfully recruited to train to become a QTVI. She has now started her training, albeit virtually, and we wish her all the best.



This meant that we had a vacancy for an EYVIPS. In term 6 we successfully recruited to the role and Catrin Cheesman joined our team at the beginning of the new academic year. She is enjoying her new role and learning all about how to support visually impaired pre-schoolers.



STLS Sensory Service Website

The Specialist Teaching and Learning Service sensory team's website has gone live! Please use the link below to find out about our service, how to refer and plenty of advice and information, plus some interviews from our students about their experiences in lockdown.



www.stlsvalence.com

Training

17 th November 2020	Braille in the Early years— Anyone welcome	Virtual – 9:00 – 12:30
17 th November 2020	VI allocation – KAB Liaison	Virtual – 1:30 – 3:00
5 th January	VI allocation – TBC	Orchards - 1:30 – 2:30

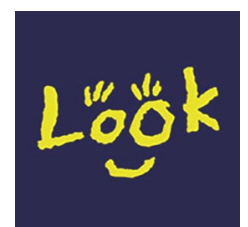
Look UK

Look is a charity which supports young visually impaired people and their families to thrive (11years +). They do this through mentoring, transformational events, youth forums and parent support groups. They can also link young people and parents to other charities and organisations who can help them access the support they need.

Their vision is to have a world where all young blind and partially sighted people are valued, included and can fulfil their potential; that young visually impaired people and their families are empowered to speak up about their needs and rights. Their wish is that young people will feel confident and connected to their peer group and communities – and have the support, tools and opportunities to thrive.

Look are also currently running a sold out parents braille club which teaches parents braille.

<https://www.look-uk.org/>



100 years of KAB



Kent Association for the Blind keeps calm and carries on

We can all say, with great certainty, that 2020 has not been a great year for us all. It will be memorable, but not in the positive sense of the word. However, for Kent Association for the Blind, 2020 marks a very special year for the charity. It celebrates 100 years of providing support to sight impaired people across the county.

Established in 1920 to support wounded soldiers, blinded as a result of World War I, KAB's work is needed now, more than ever.

Like the last 100 years, KAB continues its valuable work, despite the challenging climate. Children and young people's services continued to be a priority - supporting them with mobility skills around school and their community, and improving daily living skills.

Here is some of what has been happening:

Theo did a brilliant job making a sandwich on his own, thanks to video conferencing. Children's Worker Nicola, ran the session, with the help of Theo's Mum Jo. "Theo was super proud of himself," says Nicola. "He is doing so well and seems to enjoy learning these skills. We even managed to include a little fraction and decimal work, by cutting the sandwich into halves."

Due to the pandemic, all KAB clubs were cancelled, but that didn't stop our Medway, Gravesend and Canterbury art clubs from getting creative. Artist and KAB volunteer, Wendy Daws, runs the art clubs and wanted to help her club members to continue their love of art. She created 'Out of Sight, But Not Out of Mind', which resulted in over 80 pieces of work being created at home.

Wendy explains the importance of the project. "This project is about connecting people so they don't feel so isolated. As well as online group chats, I've visited people to give them their art resources and people have told me the project has been a lifesaver for them." Not only was fantastic art produced, it was also featured in three exhibitions across the county, in Gravesend, Rochester and Canterbury. Visitors are welcomed by a gathering of 'Mini Me' papier-mâché sculptures, as well as paintings, photographs, textiles and wood turned pieces.

Every year we host our KAB Awards, however this year the charity is unable to do so in person. That's why the virtual awards will enable KAB to recognise the great work and accomplishments of people with sight loss, volunteers, supporters and partners.

Keep an eye on KAB's facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/kentassociationfortheblind/> to find out more.



If you have any news or information you would like to share, please contact:

hstickings@valence.kent.sch.uk or lbell@valence.kent.sch.uk