



# Kench Hill Centre

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER WINTER 2010

Tel 01580 762073

[www.kenchhill.co.uk](http://www.kenchhill.co.uk) Email: [admin@kenchhill.co.uk](mailto:admin@kenchhill.co.uk)

Hackney's own residential education centre, serving the borough's learning community



Camber Sands in October with William Patten Primary

### RESIDENTIAL TRIPS 2010-11

#### Contact NOW to book for next year.

We take bookings up to 18 months ahead. Check availability on our website or call us.

#### Hurry – first come, first served!

- Kench Hill is the only residential centre **exclusively** for Hackney schools and groups, with discounted rates and programmes tailor-made for your needs.
- We can arrange planning meetings at your school to maximise benefits of a trip

### PRICES FROM SEPTEMBER 2010

We kept prices down last year in view of the economic downturn. To cover higher costs the peak rate will rise slightly to £135 per pupil per week for Hackney schools.

- Off-peak rate to stay at £120 per pupil
- **School Journey Grant increased to £80** for eligible Hackney pupils
- Discretionary grants for full amount are available, contact us for details.
- **NEW!!** You can also plan shorter trips eg 3 day programmes or weekends.

*We would like to remind Hackney schools that residential trips must be notified to and approved by TLT's Educational Visits Coordinator, Health & Safety Manager David Norwich (Tel 020 8820 7338)*

### INTER-SCHOOL SPORTS MATCHES

As part of a trip, we can arrange teams to play against a local Kent school. High 5's netball and football (mixed teams) for Key Stage 2, from beginners to champion level.

### FREE FARM TRIPS

**On a tight budget? Or short of time? Homewood School now offer us FREE tours of their farm and nature area, guided by their own education manager and just 5 minutes from Kench Hill. Meet all the usual farm animals and more.**

### PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE -

#### Your ideas are important to us!

We are now preparing our new 5 year plan. We need YOUR input to tell us what you want Kench Hill to offer, whether you are a regular user or have not visited before. You can download our brief survey on the website or email general comments.

<http://www.kenchhill.co.uk/news/documents/KenchHillCentreDevelopmentPlan2010.doc>

### TIMELINE

We are gathering information about our former days for an issue of Hackney's Timeline magazine. If you, or anyone you know, has stories from the first days of Kench Hill Centre, as a pupil or staff, please drop us a line.



## NEWS FROM LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM QUALITY BADGE

Outdoor education facilities are now subject to a voluntary quality assurance standard, approved by DCSF. If a Centre has a LotC Quality Badge you are assured that it meets minimum standards for health and safety of pupils, as well as quality of the educational experience. You will not need to do your own risk assessments for Centres that have the Badge. Kench Hill is applying for a Quality Badge and will have an external assessor visiting soon.

For further help and guidance on organising outdoor visits see [www.lotc.org.uk](http://www.lotc.org.uk)

### NEW H & S GUIDANCE

DCSF guidance for outdoor education visits, *Health and Safety of Learners Outside the Classroom (HASLOC)* replaces 1998 HASPEV advice. It is in consultation, but will soon be downloadable from LOTC website.

## NEWS UPDATE KITCHEN GARDEN

We have employed a teacher, Michelle Woodcock, as our new garden tutor to work with groups on Wednesdays. She has worked with local schools at the renowned Sissinghurst Castle's organic kitchen garden, so brings a wealth of experience. One school has already helped sow our first crop of broad beans.

### REFURBISHMENT

Work is now underway refurbishing the rear corridor, which will result in an additional toilets and extra cloakroom capacity. After these former outbuildings were stripped out we realised what a terrible state they were in!

The kitchen is also being revamped with new equipment to help our kitchen staff prepare their delicious home-cooked meals in a more modern and user-friendly environment.

### ANIMAL TRAGEDY

A mystery beast launched a savage attack in broad daylight recently, killing most of our hens and all our rabbits and guinea pigs. We hope to restock once we have secured a safe area so we can resume the popular 'Meet the Bunny' and chicken-feeding sessions.

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

While we do not have a published activity brochure for secondary schools, we are able to prepare tailor-made programmes for most curriculum areas. Our deputy tutor, Lucy Harrigan, recently completed her Secondary Science PGCE with particular expertise in Ecology and environmental studies.

**Contact us to find how we can help you.**

### GOT A JOB?

Lucy is seeking a part-time (0.5) science teaching post in London, preferably Hackney, where she can complete her NQT year, whilst continuing to support schools at Kench Hill. She is also available to do supply or to help run field trips for secondary groups. She is highly recommended!

### FAMILY HOLIDAY PROJECT

We are working in partnership with Family Holiday Association, which funds 'social tourism' ie breaks for needy families. A research project with Burbage Primary is investigating the positive impact on a child's learning and well-being after a short family holiday. FHA are now considering rolling out the trial to other Hackney schools – would your school like to get involved?



We have also trialled '*Healthy Breaks*', working with families identified by the Primary Care Trusts to help them '*Be Active – Eat Well – Feel Good.*'

See [www.fhaonline.org.uk](http://www.fhaonline.org.uk)

### The Kench Hill Charity

We welcomed 2 new members\* as Trustees last term. Current board members are:

- **Nicola Baboneau**, Senior Advisor (Community & Partnerships) The Learning Trust
- **Tom Brooke**, Head of Law, The Learning Trust
- **Liz Cooke**, Ex-Grazebrook Primary\*
- **Patrick Fuller**, Head of Finance, TLT
- **Bernard Hawes**, School governor
- **Mary Hiscock**, School governor
- **John Larter**, School governor
- **Di Roome**, Head, Gayhurst Primary\*
- **Mark Smith**, Executive Director, Finance, TLT

We would like to thank the members and other Learning Trust support staff who have assisted us last year, with special thanks to Gold Egele and Yusuf Erol for their help.