



KRATOS
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the children in care council

Contents page:

Cambridge University Overnight Stay.....	3
Shine Talent Show.....	5
Shining Stars Event.....	6
Hamilton Theatre Performance.....	8
Brighton Seaside Trip	10
Ignite Awards.....	12
Summer School.....	13
Tower Bridge Trip.....	15
Shining Stars.....	17

Our Overnight Trip to Cambridge University

By a 15-year-old young person

Recently, I had the chance to go on an **overnight trip to Cambridge University** from the 6th – 7th of July, and it was an experience I will never forget. The trip gave me and two others a real insight into what university life is like and helped us imagine what our futures could look like.

When we arrived at **Gonville & Caius College**, I was amazed by how beautiful everything looked. The buildings were huge and full of history, and the college grounds were immaculate. It felt like stepping into a film set. We stayed in actual student accommodation, which made the experience feel even more real because we got to see what student life might be like if we choose to go to university in the future.



During our visit, we attended presentations from university staff who told us all about studying at Cambridge and the support available for care-experienced students. It was interesting to learn about the different courses on offer and hear how the university helps young people settle in and succeed.



One of the highlights of the trip was the food. We were served breakfast, lunch and dinner in the college's grand dining hall, which was absolutely stunning. Sitting together and eating in such an impressive room made us feel like real university students.

We were also taken on a tour of the college by three student ambassadors. They showed us around the beautiful buildings, impressive libraries and peaceful gardens while chatting with us about university life. They were really friendly and happy to answer all our questions. Hearing about their experiences made university seem much less intimidating and a lot more exciting.

In the evening, we explored the town of Cambridge and walked through its famous streets. Everywhere we looked there were impressive buildings, quirky little shops and lots of character. It was great to spend time with everyone while taking in the atmosphere of such a historic city.

Another unforgettable part of the trip was our **guided punt along the River Cam**. As we floated along the river, our guide told us about the history of Cambridge and its many colleges. We also got some very close encounters with ducks and geese swimming alongside us, which made everyone laugh.

What made the trip really special was how welcoming and supportive all the university staff and student ambassadors were. They made us feel comfortable, answered our questions and encouraged us to think about our future education and career goals.



By the end of the trip, I felt inspired and much more confident about the possibility of going to university one day. It was an amazing experience, and I know everyone who attended came away with happy memories and a better understanding of what university life is really like.

Thank you to everyone who organised the visit and made it such a memorable experience. It is a trip that we will remember for a long time and who knows, we might even be back there as university students one day!



Enfield Takes the Stage at the Children in Care Talent Show

By a 17 year old young person.

On **8 July**, I had the opportunity to take part in the **Children in Care Talent Show at Hoxton Theatre**, and honestly, it was one of the best experiences I've ever had.

The event brought together talented young people from Virtual Schools across London, giving us the chance to meet other children/young people in care, make new friends, and support each other. It was inspiring to see the confidence, creativity, and talent on display throughout the evening.

When it was my turn to perform, I stepped onto the stage and performed a mix of **singing and rapping**. I was nervous at first, but as soon as I started, the crowd got behind me. The audience was cheering, clapping, and singing along, which gave me a real confidence boost. It was an amazing feeling to be up there doing something I love in front of so many people.



Then it was **D.S.P's (16)** turn to take the stage. He absolutely smashed his dance performance. The audience loved every second of it and the cheers got louder and louder as he continued. To finish off his routine, he pulled off an incredible set of splits, and in true show-stopping fashion, his shoes went flying across the stage! The crowd went wild and everyone was laughing and cheering.



I can honestly say that **Enfield closed the show with a bang**. Our performances brought energy, excitement, and plenty of entertainment. Trust me, after that night, all the other Virtual Schools will know about the young people in care from Enfield!

We were buzzing afterwards! We left Hoxton Theatre feeling incredibly proud, not just of our performances, but of the confidence, courage, and determination we showed on stage.

It was a night to remember and one that will stay with us for a long time. We also made new friends which was a bonus!

A Night to Remember at the Shining Stars Awards

Written by a 16 year old young person

On **13 July 2026**, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the **Shining Stars Awards Ceremony** at the Guildhall in London. It was honestly one of the best evenings I have ever had.

As soon as we arrived, I knew it was going to be special. The venue was absolutely beautiful. The Guildhall was grand, elegant and full of people dressed up for the occasion. It genuinely felt like **the Grammys, but for young people in care**. There were stunning chandeliers, a pianist playing as guests arrived, and a real sense of excitement in the air.

Everyone looked incredible. Young people had arrived in beautiful dresses and smart suits, and it felt like a red-carpet event. I was wearing a **ballgown dress**, which made me feel really special, and my friend **R.C. (17 years)** looked very smart in his suit. We were both excited to be there and to celebrate alongside other young people who had achieved amazing things.



The food was also incredible. There was a fantastic selection of food and refreshments, and everything tasted amazing. The whole event felt really bouji and luxurious. From the music to the decorations, every detail had been carefully planned to make the evening feel special for the young people being recognised.

The highlight of the evening was, of course, the awards ceremony itself. It was inspiring to hear about the achievements of so many young people and the different journeys they had been on.

I was honoured to receive a **Shining Star Award** for my determination and personal growth. After joining a new school during my GCSE studies, I faced a lot of challenges but worked hard to overcome them. Over the past year, I completed a **Level 1 Introduction to Hair and Beauty qualification**, achieved a **Level 2 Mentor Qualification**, was named **Star of the Month** at my youth club, won medals at Sports Day, completed my hospitality coursework, and sat my GCSE and Functional Skills examinations. Receiving the award made me feel proud of how far I have come and how much my confidence has grown.

It was also fantastic to see **R.C.** receive his award. He was recognised for his resilience and determination after working hard to achieve **eight GCSEs** and secure a place in sixth form. He is now studying **A Level Music, English and Photography** and continues to do really well in his education. His journey showed how much can be achieved through hard work and perseverance, even when things feel difficult.

When our names were called, it felt surreal walking up to collect our awards. We each received a **Shining Star Award** and a **£100 voucher**, which made the evening even more exciting. I think it is fair to say that R.C. was particularly pleased with his voucher!

The whole night was a celebration of young people who had worked hard, overcome challenges and achieved their goals. Seeing so many success stories in one room was inspiring and reminded me how important it is to keep believing in yourself.

As we left the Guildhall, both R.C. and I were absolutely buzzing. We could not stop talking about the evening and how proud we felt. It was so much more than receiving an award. It was about feeling recognised, valued and celebrated for everything we had achieved.

It is a night I will never forget, and I feel incredibly proud to have been part of it.



A Brilliant Day at Hamilton!

By a 14-year-old young person

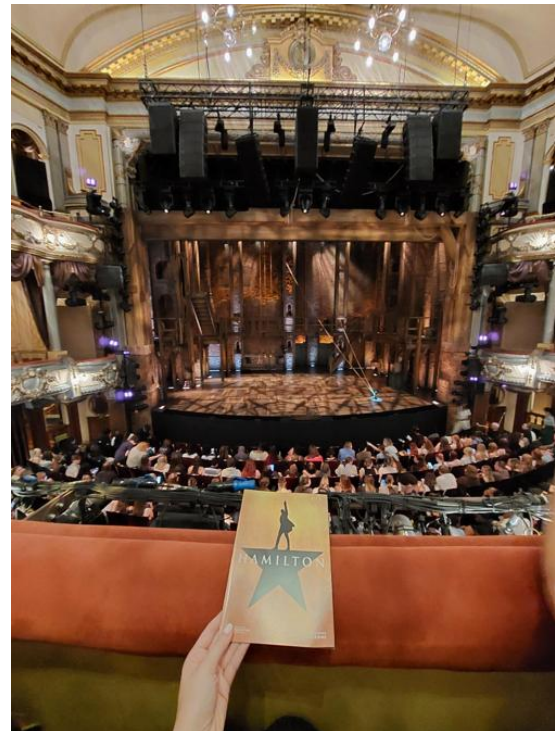
Recently, me and **seven other children/young people and two members of staff from Enfield Virtual School** went to see **Hamilton** at the **Victoria Palace Theatre** in London, and it was honestly the best theatre trip ever!

As soon as we got into the theatre, we were all excited. We had **fantastic seats**, right in the centre and directly opposite the stage, so we could see everything perfectly. The theatre itself was amazing, and it felt really special knowing we were about to watch one of the most famous musicals in the world.

The show was incredible from start to finish.

Hamilton tells the story of Alexander

Hamilton, one of America's Founding Fathers, but it does it in a really unique way using rap, hip-hop, singing and amazing choreography. I had never seen a musical quite like it before. The performers were so talented, and the energy on stage was unbelievable. Every song seemed better than the last, and there was always something happening that kept me interested.



My favourite part was the song "**You'll Be Back.**" It was really funny, and the actor playing King George had everyone laughing. I also loved watching the big ensemble performances because the dancing and choreography were so impressive. The way the cast moved around the stage whilst singing and rapping was amazing to watch.

At half time, we were treated to **ice cream**, which made the experience even better. There were lots of flavours to choose from, but I picked **mint chocolate**, and it was delicious! It was nice to have a break, chat about our favourite scenes, and get ready for the second half of the show.

The second half was just as brilliant as the first, and before we knew it, the show was over. The audience gave the cast a huge round of applause, and everyone agreed it had been an incredible performance.

Afterwards, we made our way back to the station and caught the train back to Enfield. Although we were tired from such an exciting day, we couldn't stop talking about our favourite moments from the show.

It was honestly **the best theatre day ever**, and I feel really lucky to have had the opportunity to go. A huge thank you to all the people who organised such an amazing trip. I would absolutely love to watch *Hamilton* again one day!



A Brilliant Day Out in Brighton!

By a 15-year-old young person

On **6 August 2026**, I joined **23 other children and young people**, along with staff, for an amazing day trip to **Brighton**. We had an early start, but it was definitely worth it because everyone was excited for a day by the seaside.



After the coach journey, we finally arrived at **Brighton Palace Pier**, and the first thing we did was make the most of our unlimited ride wristbands. There were so many rides to choose from, and everyone headed off to find their favourites. Some of us went straight for the bigger rides, like the **Turbo Coaster, Air Race, Booster and Horror Hotel**, whilst others enjoyed classics such as the **Ghost Train, Carousel and Trampolines**.

My favourite part of the morning was going on the rides with friends. There was lots of laughing, screaming and trying to convince each other to go on the biggest rides. The views from some of the rides were incredible, especially being able to see the sea stretching out in front of us.

After a busy morning, we all worked up an appetite and headed off for lunch. We were given vouchers and could choose what we wanted to eat. Most people went for either **fish and chips or hot dogs**, which were both really nice. To make things even better, everyone got an ice cream afterwards. Sitting on the pier enjoying an ice cream in the sunshine felt like the perfect summer day.

In the afternoon, most of us headed down to **Brighton Beach**. Some people went straight into the sea to cool off, whilst others relaxed on the pebbles, chatted with friends, explored the beach or enjoyed the views. Even though the water was freezing at first, it was really fun splashing around and enjoying the warm weather.



Before it was time to leave, we visited the pier shops and arcades. It was fun looking around, trying out the games and picking up souvenirs to remember the trip. The pier was full of energy, and there was always something happening wherever you looked.

As the day came to an end, we climbed back onto the coach feeling tired but happy. Everyone was talking about their



favourite rides, funny moments from the beach and what they had bought from the arcades. The journey home went quickly because we spent most of it sharing stories and laughing about the day's adventures.

The Brighton trip was one of the best days of the summer. I know it is a day that many of us will remember for a long time!



Ignite Awards 2026: A Night to Remember!

By A Young Person, Age 15

On 20 August, I had the amazing opportunity to attend the Ignite Awards at Millfield Theatre, and it was one of the most inspiring evenings I have ever been part of.

The Ignite Awards are organised by Enfield's Young Leaders and celebrate young people who have made a positive difference in their communities, schools and the lives of others. This year's event was bigger than ever, with a record number of nominations and more than 250 people attending the ceremony.

The evening was full of excitement, with speeches, award presentations and performances from young people who had taken part in Enfield's Summer Uni programme. It was incredible to see so many talented young people sharing their skills through music, film and spoken word performances. The atmosphere in the theatre was positive, energetic and full of support for everyone who had been nominated.

One of the highlights of the evening was hearing about the achievements of all the nominees and winners. These young people had shown determination, leadership, kindness and a commitment to helping others. It was inspiring to see so many people being recognised for the difference they are making in Enfield.

I was especially proud to learn that three of the award winners were children in care. Seeing young people with care experience being recognised for their achievements was a powerful reminder that children in care can achieve amazing things and make a real impact in their communities.

To my surprise, I was awarded the Future Leader Award. I felt incredibly honoured and grateful to receive this recognition. Standing on stage and accepting the award was a moment I will never forget. It gave me confidence and motivation to continue getting involved, speaking up and helping to create positive opportunities for other young people.

The Ignite Awards showed just how much talent, resilience and potential there is among young people in Enfield. Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and especially to those who received awards. The evening was a celebration of young people supporting young people, and I left feeling inspired about what the future holds.

I am already looking forward to next year's Ignite Awards!

Summer School 2026, A Week to Remember!

By a 15-year-old young person

From **24 to 28 August**, I attended **Summer School at Craig Park Youth Centre**, and it was one of the best weeks of the summer. Every day was packed with fun activities, and there was always something new to get involved in.

One of my favourite parts of the week was when **St John Ambulance** came to visit us. We learned lots of important skills, including how to respond in an emergency. We even got the chance to look at a **defibrillator** and learn how it works. The most exciting part was practising **CPR on training dummies**. It was really interesting to learn lifesaving skills in such a fun and interactive way, and it made us realise how important first aid can be.

Throughout the week, we also took part in lots of different sports and games. We played **basketball, football and dodgeball**, which got everyone moving and working together as a team. When we were indoors, we played games such as **Wink Murder, Splat, Silent Ball, Charades and Heads Up**, which led to lots of laughter and friendly competition.



Another activity we all enjoyed was baking. We made delicious **cookies**, which were great fun to decorate and, even better, to eat! There were also plenty of arts and crafts activities, including making **keyrings and ornaments out of playdough**. Everyone got creative and came up with their own designs, and it was amazing to see how different all of our creations turned out.



As the week went on, we started preparing for our fundraiser. On the final day, we set up our own stalls with posters, price lists, keyrings and ornaments on display. Staff, carers

and visitors came along to see what we had created. We had to present our products and persuade people to buy them, which was a bit nerve-racking at first, but it was also really fun.



Thanks to everyone's hard work, we raised **£52.02**, to London Ambulance Charity, while £500 was raised for St John Ambulance. It felt great knowing that the money we raised would go towards supporting such an important charity.

The best thing about Summer School was not just the activities, it was the opportunity to make new friends, try new things and build our confidence. Whether we were learning CPR, playing sports, creating artwork or selling our products, everyone had the chance to showcase their skills and get involved.

It was an amazing week from start to finish, and I can't wait to see what activities are planned next year!

A Trip Above London at Tower Bridge!

By a 15-year-old young person

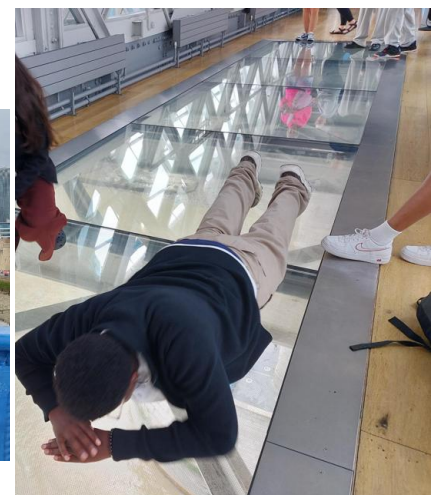
On **2 September 2026**, a group of us visited **Tower Bridge**, one of London's most famous landmarks, and it turned out to be a lot more exciting than I expected. The tour lasted around an hour, but in that time we learned so much about the bridge's history and got to see some amazing views of London.

As soon as we arrived, I was impressed by how huge and impressive the bridge looked. During the tour, we learned that Tower Bridge was built between **1886 and 1894** and was specially designed so that the road in the middle could lift up to allow large ships to pass along the River Thames.



One of the best parts of the visit was walking along the **high-level walkways**, high above the river. From there, we had incredible views across London and could spot lots of famous landmarks. We also learned about the architects, engineers and workers who helped build the bridge over 130 years ago.

However, the absolute highlight of the day was definitely the **glass floor**. Looking down through the glass at the traffic and people below was both exciting and slightly terrifying! What made it even funnier was that some of the older visitors seemed too scared to stand on it, while we were lying across it, taking selfies, pretending we were falling and having an absolute whale of a time. We were laughing so much and making the most of the opportunity.



Another interesting part of the tour was learning about how the bridge works and why it has become such an important symbol of London. It was amazing to think about how

people built something so impressive more than a century ago, and that it is still used every day.

By the end of the tour, I felt like I had learned loads without it feeling like a lesson. Between the stunning views, fascinating history and endless fun on the glass floor, it was a day to remember. If you've never been to Tower Bridge, I would definitely recommend it. Just be prepared, you might find that the children are much braver on the glass floor than the adults!

✨ Shining Stars – Celebrating Achievements ✨

Recognising the achievements of Enfield's children in care

Every term, we celebrate the incredible effort, progress, and pride shown by young people across Enfield. Whether it's trying something new, showing resilience, or working hard in school, every achievement matters — and we are proud of each and every one of you. Here are some of our latest Shining Stars:

R.M. (18) achieved an outstanding *three A grades at A Level** and will be attending **the University of Oxford** to study **Biochemistry**. Congratulations on this exceptional achievement.

H.L. (18) achieved an excellent set of A Level results, gaining *A, A and B grades**, and will be studying **Computer Science at the University of Southampton**. A fantastic accomplishment and well-deserved next step.

V.B. (18) achieved **A, B and C grades at A Level** and will be attending **the University of Nottingham** to study **Chemistry**. We wish her every success as she begins this exciting new chapter.

N.A. (18) achieved a **Distinction in Health and Social Care** and a **Merit in Applied Science**, and will be studying **Radiography at City St George's, University of London**. A brilliant achievement and a great foundation for a future healthcare career.

I.H. (18) achieved an impressive **A, A and B at A Level** and will be attending **King's College London** to study **History**. Congratulations on this fantastic accomplishment.

B.N.I. (18) achieved **three Merit grades** and will be progressing to the **University of Kent** to study Business Marketing.

H.I. and J.I. (Year 3) have been recognised by their school for being **wonderful learners who consistently work hard and always try their best**. We are incredibly proud of their positive attitude towards learning and the effort they put into their education every day.

K.O. (Year 6) and M.O. (Year 3) have successfully navigated the challenge of **moving to new schools**, settling in well and embracing the transition with confidence and resilience. We are proud of how well they have adapted and wish them continued success in their new school communities.

Shining Stars ✨

A huge congratulations to all of our young people on their hard work, dedication, and achievements. We are incredibly proud of everything you have accomplished and look forward to seeing what you achieve next. Keep shining! ✨