

Community spotlight

A snapshot of Emanuel's community and outreach activities | November 2022



Coffee and Conversation Hub for Ukrainians is back

We are thrilled that our Coffee and Conversation Hub is up and running again after the summer break. We are planning to meet on alternative Saturdays from 10.00 am to 11.30 am throughout the school year.

Based on attendance last term, we are expecting 40+ Ukrainian adults and children to join us each week. They meet with Emanuel parent and pupil volunteers (including Ukrainian speakers) to network and hone their English skills. We typically invite guest speakers including Wandsworth Citizens' Advice to help with skills development, benefits, education and housing. Other organisations including Battersea Power Station's BASE programme and Work Match are planned for this term. Thanks to our wonderful parent volunteers, we are able to offer free places at 12 Rounds Boxing for Ukrainian women and girls and are looking forward to additional excursions to St Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. We continue to work with Southbank College, again through a wonderful parent connection, to provide English lessons.

The Hub will run six times in the Autumn term from 10.00 am to 11.30 am on Saturdays. It is open to everyone in our Wandsworth community. The remaining dates are November 5th, 12th, 19th; and December 10th. If you are interested in supporting the Hub through volunteering, job opportunities, cultural exchanges or activity ideas, we would love to have your help.



Activ Camps support for Ukrainian families

Activ Camps run multi-activity camps for children aged 4 – 14 across South London and has incredibly close ties to Emanuel School. Not only is Emanuel School their longest-standing venue, with a little over 1100 children visiting their camp here this summer, its Founder, Lily Bolton Green, and Managing Director, William Lacey, both went to Emanuel School. Activ Camps also employ a very large number of Old Emanuels each year!

Over the summer, Activ provided free places for 20 of our Ukrainian Hub families' children. We are incredibly thankful for their support – our Ukrainian community was thrilled with the opportunity not only for their children to be involved in Activ's energetic weekly programmes but also for enabling their parents to continue with their English lessons and newly acquired jobs. Ukrainian children have also attended over October half-term including two teenagers who have taken on roles in the Young Leader programme. Thank you, Activ Camps!

Year 6 enrichment programme with partner schools



Throughout the year, we undertake multiple partnership initiatives in addition to Primary Ambitions. We have worked closely with Christ Church CofE Primary for many years, and more recently with John Burns, on a variety of projects including the joint Year 6 enrichment programme. The goal for these enrichment sessions is for the pupils from the three schools to collaborate on an enjoyable project where they can develop new friendships, be creative, learn new skills and have something to show for it at the end.

On 12th October, we welcomed pupils from Christ Church and John Burns to join our children for a day of drama. They learned and practised new skills and began work on an ambitious production of Macbeth, including practice sword fighting and the ultimate death scene! We are looking forward to the second rehearsal and performance on 12th November.



GCSE boosters

During the Autumn and Spring holidays, we run GCSE booster programmes for our partner schools, Westminster City School and St John Burns College. This October half-term was no exception. Pupils are offered the opportunity to participate in 'stretch and challenge' or 'support' sessions in English, Maths and the Sciences. The sessions are run by our wonderful Emanuel staff volunteers. Participants and staff find the sessions rewarding – pupils are engaged and eager to learn. 70% of last year's cohort achieved their predicted grades or higher in English and Maths – so the sessions are impactful too.

As part of the Wandsworth state and independent school collaboration project, we are working with Putney High School to extend the programme to additional schools in the Spring. We are excited about this development as we will effectively be able to double the number of pupils we are able to support.



Christmas book drive – save your books please!

One in four disadvantaged children across the UK has fewer than ten books of their own at home, and one in eight has none. In partnership with the Children's Book Project, we plan to distribute books to our local partner schools and refugee families in time for Christmas to help, even if in a small way, to address this issue.

If you are planning a pre-Christmas clear out, please hold on to your new or nearly new books for our partners. We are primarily collecting for children from 3 to 11 years old. All genres are fabulous including non-fiction and foreign language books. We are keen to have them!

We are also eager to support the reading community at Wandsworth Prison, a men's Category 2 prison housing 1600 inmates in our neighbourhood. The prison is thrilled to have our books and are looking for thrillers, page turners and general non-fiction books.

We will collect books from Monday, 28th November to Wednesday, 30th November and will sort and deliver on Wednesday, 30th November too. Please look out for further details in the coming weeks.

Opportunities to get involved

Christmas hamper deliveries

Wednesday, 14th December to
Friday, 16th December

We will be distributing Christmas hampers, in collaboration with our partner CHEER, for vulnerable single parent families in our local community in December. More details will follow regarding specific families and sought-after items.

This year, CHEER has asked for our support with delivery to families too. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the difference that we are making to our neighbours in a direct way. We are looking for volunteers willing to deliver to 4 or so local families, preferably on the 14th December but times can be arranged to suit. If you are interested in helping in this hands-on way, please let us know.

Volunteer at our book drive sorting session

Wednesday, 30th November

Join us to unpack, sort and deliver books donated the previous week for our partner schools, local refugee families and Wandsworth Prison. It's a great opportunity to meet other parents and support our community partners.

We will be **sorting the books from 9.30 am - 11.30 am and again from 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm** in the Hampden Hall and will then deliver to our community partner, the Children's Book Project, on Lots Road, Chelsea, for distribution to our partner schools on Wednesday too. We will sort the books for Wandsworth and will organise delivery separately.

If you are available to sort and deliver, please get in touch.

For more information on our community partnership and outreach activities, and to volunteer for any of the initiatives, please contact Mrs Irwin, Head of Community Partnerships and Outreach at Lisa.irwin@emanuel.org.uk