



An Alternative approach to Education

# Newsletter Spring 2 2025

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## Who is benefiting from Plan B's service?

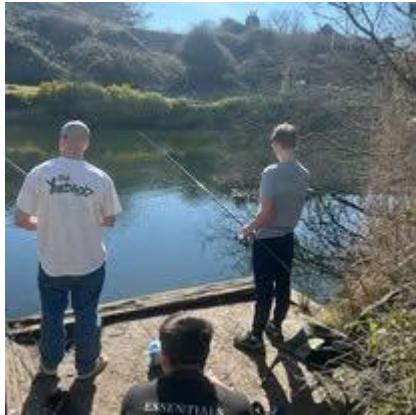
Who benefits from Plan B? It is a question we pose daily. We can measure the tangible benefits to our students every day through their positive, consistent attendance. We record their progression through the engagement we see and the work they produce. Hard evidence is then recorded through our reporting of results against student targets, such as those documented in their Education and Healthcare Plan outcomes. These are an agreed set of aims a student must work towards to help them achieve the best possible results from their education. They form the basis of our work as we report back on these to all stakeholders, including parents and carers, schools and the local authority. To see our students go on to further education and careers is an extra measure of our mutual success. We also get regular feedback from families, letting us know how students' work at Plan B is well received when brought home. This is often reflected in a more positive relationship with parents, carers and siblings, as students have something positive to show off and be proud of. We measure this through conversations with families, such as parents reporting students being more motivated in the mornings when coming into Plan B, getting up earlier, and arriving home with a smile and a positive attitude. We know this resonates around family homes and improves relationships. Also, our community benefits as our students are seen around the area taking part in activities and working alongside peers and instructors, where previously they had been at home or on the streets unsupervised. Ultimately, through their increased engagement, skills-based learning and raised aspirations, society benefits. Plan B's fabulous team of staff and instructors also benefit. We enjoy working with students and seeing them thrive in the vocational education environment. This is why we work as hard as we do - not only to help achieve better outcomes for our students, but also for their families, to help create a more cohesive and pleasant community and ultimately a more progressive and positive society.



## Sunlit days and endless smiles

Our students are an outdoorsy bunch and, although they have certainly made the most of the winter weather, we are all pleased to see the sun return. Without hesitation, students demanded to get back out on the water. Kayaks and canoes were dusted off, buoyancy aids reappeared and off we went. What an experience for some of our newer students, who had never been paddling before, and what a relief for our more experienced students, who had craved this for months and held out since last November. There is something special about working alongside students in an outdoor environment. Sometimes even the simplest of activities, such as a beach run on the Gosport mile or a dog walk in Queen Elizabeth country park, gives students a sense of freedom that relieves stress and invigorates minds. We are lucky to live in an area of outstanding natural beauty and it is fantastic to see students appreciate the space. They are developing a greater understanding of the environment, from sea to green spaces, and love interacting with nature. Fresh air is often the best remedy for depression, anxiety or heightened behaviour. Students returning after an outdoor education activity usually carry seemingly endless smiles that stretch far beyond the close of the school day.





Pizza

Barista & front of house



## Roll out the red carpet...

We have future stars of stage and screen right here at Plan B. Readers of the Spring 1 newsletter may remember that students had made a film. Some of you may have even opened the YouTube link and watched our first production. Since then, our media team has made not one, but two more films. All were written, produced and edited from our 'film studio' on Park Street. Students have been on location in Leesland Park and around the town, beach, churches and basements. The whole of Gosport was transformed into our film set as our media team rolled the camera and flew the drone to capture an epic vampire adventure with the 'Rise of Marcellus'. Students took their involvement to the next level on this one and enjoyed adding AI to the special effects to create something they can be proud of. This was clearly inspirational for other students, who launched themselves into our second zombie film. With no less gusto, they directed their own parts to be heroes, flesh eaters or the eaten. What we have seen from them is fantastic engagement, great effort and collaboration to be stars of the screen and make Gos-Vegas akin to Hollywood with premieres galore.



## Vacuum bagging for a better finish

You may remember our headline story from the last newsletter introduced our new boat build, the Mcc 16. She is now out of the shed and looking great. Most of her hull and interior is built from the highest grade marine plywood. But we have also used a lovely, (re-claimed), dark African hardwood called sapele to finish her gunwales, and oak for her seats and supports. Her interior has also been fitted with buoyancy tanks to make her extra safe and stable. Her finished hull is so smart partly because of the finishing system we used. Under the guidance and technical advice of the team at Wessex Resins, we employed the latest techniques in fibreglass application to seal, protect and finish her hull to an excellent standard. This involves applying the materials, then creating a vacuum around the hull to flatten the surface by evenly spreading the epoxy resin around the surface. This is the technique used in the most modern composite builds and something our students will benefit from understanding at this stage of their learning. Much of the build has used traditional tools and methods. But we felt it would add an extra level of learning to understand and experience the latest in modern boatbuilding. When any of our older students choose a career in the marine industry, they will now be one step ahead of the curve.

## Some of the feedback from this half term...

I like Plan B because all the staff are kind...

Thank you for all the work you've done with B, this is probably the only project he's started and finished 😊 he seems very proud of himself and his little sister is over the moon with her new skateboard! She's so happy her big brother has thought about her and made the effort to make her something 🤗 please thank Brendan too he's definitely good at what he does and B clearly looks up to him...

At Plan B you get the time you need to do the task, you don't get hassled, there is a lot more freedom to self manage, which gives you the space to express yourself and be yourself...it makes you really enjoy the work.

We'd like to thank you for the work you have completed with him, we have noticed a difference in his behaviours and engagement in school.

FE-Plan B I honestly can't thank you enough. Not only for the support and confidence you have given him but also for me as it's nice to know that he is seen as a "good kid" who needs a bit of extra help. It becomes disheartening when you hear all the negative things over the years. Again thank you to all of you so much!

A huge thank you for continuing to run with the water sports initiative. We remain convinced that the water sports have made a tangible difference to the summer holidays for many families, and I was really chuffed to see that they will continue.

Have a great Easter break and again thank you for all you do for R...



## This term, we have also...

Donated a boat to be part of a crazy golf course. Ran the Gosport mile. Facilitated lots more driving lessons for post 16 students. Built a coffin as a prop for our latest vampire film. Built a rudder and a yoke. Cooked more than 500 breakfasts for students, staff and guests. Filmed a zombie apocalypse. Sold a boat (or two). Bought a boat (just the one). Vacuum bagged a boat and rudder. Made new covers for all our machinery. Refurbished a dresser for one of our students to use as a nail bar. Celebrated lots of birthdays. Made lots of cakes. 3D printed Yoda and Gollum. Been donated a two-kilogram Easter egg. Wrote a letter of support for one student and one family. Wrote a CV. Visited the Pallant House art gallery. Featured on the front cover of an international magazine. And played lots and lots of #Football.

Extra thanks to The YJA Tim Bannister/Akzo Nobel, Wessex Resins, Katy Stickland/PBO and Horseshoe Lake Activity Centre.



**Even more support this half term from this amazing bunch...**

Treebeard Trust. Howdens Insurance. Britannia Corporate Events. Haslar Marina. Fairview Sailing. Penelope Holdings. Howden Joinery. Langstone Adventure Rowing. Boatfolk. Dauntsey's School and Jolie Brise. YouBoat Chandlery. ATRacing. GBC. Dame Caroline Dinenage DBE MP. Councillor Jamie Hutchinson. Flick Drummond MP Hampshire CC. Councillor John Beavis MBE. Councillor John Gledhill. Hardway SC. The Alverbank Hotel. Wessex Resins. Cromwell Tools. Dream Yacht Charter. Inclusion Hampshire. British Marine. British Rowing. British Canoeing. Boatshed IOW. Lyn Hill Designs. MCO sailing, Phil Hadley. Nowmarine. Minerva Technical and MinervaEurope. The Royal Yachting Association. STANLEY Smallcraft, Alex Ward AKA Mini-Me. Councillor Zoe Huggins. Councillor Lesley Meenaghan. Gosport Borough Council. The Friends of Hardway. Music Matters. The Luna Foundation. Gosport Road Runners and the Gosport Half Marathon fund. Mary Montagu-Scott. Jonathan Cheshire and Sail Training International. Malcolm Hicks and family. Jon Carver. Chris Best and the Mound Close. ASDA foundation. Councillor Martin Pepper. Lord Mayor Councillor Richard Earle. Pitt Street Indoor Skatepark project. Moreland Motors. The Marine Advertising Agency (MAA) RS Sailing. UK Harvest. The Trash Cafe. Able Steel. Marvels and Meltdowns. The Worshipful company of Saddlers. Martin Glanville. Last Cast Saloon. XW Rigging. Greene King. Hays Travel Foundation. The Innkeepers. The KFC Foundation. Land Securities. Team BCN, L'il Les, Good Directions, PBO/Yachting monthly and Katy Stickland, Adam Seager. T by the Sea. Warner Goodman. Jacobs well centre. Hexley LTD. Fairweather marine. Meditation Martin. Wirehouse. Tim Bannister and Akzo nobel. Our esteemed Members, and all our fab volunteers who continue to give time, effort and energy.



## TEAM PROFILE: Canvas Creations

### Pablo Madrid

Introducing creativity within the marine industry.



## STUDENT PROFILE:

### Tyler H

A quiet, unassuming student who is finding a passion for Canvas Creations.







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