



# Lapwing

Personalised learning for young people

## Lapwing's new post 16 groups!

At the start of the Autumn Term, Lapwing embarked on a new format for delivering student sessions, moving forward from predominantly 1:1 teaching methods, and creating two new regular group settings in north and west Suffolk, commissioned by SCC. This builds on the success and benefits seen from the Media and Art group projects held last academic year, enabling students to develop social and shared learning skills through interacting with their peers.

It is planned that the groups will involve up to 6 students per group, where the individual needs and personalised interests of each student can still be incorporated into each session. Suzanne Welton, one of the Lead Tutors at Lapwing, explains that the groups are not meant to simulate a traditional classroom setting, but instead provide an alternative educational experience for the students to access learning through a combination of academic teaching alongside practical and personal development activities involving life skills and vocational work experience. This blend provides students with the opportunity to not only develop their confidence around new people, but also to build relationships within the group, a key element that is often missing when students have been out of education or isolated from peers within their age group.



## Team Lapwing to take part in the FIRST LEGO League!

When Computer Science teacher, Dru Watts, started working as a tutor for Lapwing at the start of this term, she brought with her a love for programming and a wealth of experience in LEGO robotics. Weekly LEGO League sessions are now being held for Lapwing students and Dru has entered a Lapwing team to enter in the FIRST LEGO League on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

*"The FIRST LEGO League is an annual STEM competition that runs worldwide for students aged 4 to 16. Each year, the competition has a different theme, from cities, to water, to animals. As well as building a robot, there is an innovation project to complete, challenging students to solve a real-world problem based on the competition's theme."*

Read the rest of Dru's article in 'Hello World' Magazine [here](#).



Pictures (above left): Liam, Enzo and Sam taking part in a range of activities at the group sessions; and (above right) Dru working with student Jude, at a weekly LEGO League session at Lapwing HQ.

# The Dogs Squad – A Student’s Report

By Tiffanie Leeks, Lapwing Student (November 2021)



*The Dogs Squad is a fun and nurturing environment, for those who love dogs but require some extra care. People who have disabilities or mental health issues often benefit hugely. This is because the owner, who is called Lisa, has also experienced her own difficulties. She is calm and caring whilst also having a sense of authority about her, so everyone knows their positions. This is fantastic for those who like boundaries, meaning that people will feel safe whilst being there.*

*When you first go into The Dogs Squad you will be greeted by a maximum of eight happy and cheerful dogs. Just like humans, some of the dogs there may be slightly nervous and vocal towards new people, until they feel comfortable around you. It is important to mention that although some of the dogs might be vocal towards you, Lisa (the owner) has this situation under control. Once you have finished saying hello to all the lovely dogs, you will then be offered a cup of tea or coffee, sometimes they even have hot chocolate!*

*I attend The Dogs Squad on a Wednesday and Friday. All the dogs there are very different to each other, so it is hard to give you an indication about each dog’s personality. However, I can say that some dogs are more playful and attentive from the beginning whilst others take time to form a bond. One of my favourite dogs that attends is called Regi. Regi is one of the most vocal dogs on a Wednesday and often barks at new people. However, because I have attended The Dog Squad for at least 5 months Regi will now come over for a cuddle every time I am sitting down.*



*Overall, I would recommend The Dogs Squad to a majority of different people that I know. It has really helped me with my personal confidence and it has helped me gain friends who I met at The Dogs Squad in many ways too.*

**The Dogs Squad, located in Christchurch Park, Ipswich, is a community interest group that combines doggie day care and training, with opportunities for adults and young people with autism and learning disabilities to interact and help look after dogs, building their confidence and social skills. Several Lapwing students attend the Dogs Squad on a regular basis as part of their personal development programmes.**

[www.thedogssquad.com](http://www.thedogssquad.com)



## What inspired me to work for Lapwing..?

*"Before Lapwing, I taught in a primary school for five years. Before that, I was an artist and community engagement coordinator for a radio station. I've been looking for a job where I can bring my passions together with my teaching experience - and I feel like I've found it! The young person's needs, interests, and aspirations are at the centre of Lapwing's work. We bring their learning alive in creative ways underpinned by evidence-based best practice. It's inspiring, satisfying work challenging me to learn and grow professionally.*

*I wondered if I would miss the camaraderie of working in a school, but there is such a strong team culture at Lapwing, I never feel like I'm on my own. My colleagues are always happy to talk through ideas, share their experiences and work together."*

**Emma Johnson, Lapwing Tutor**

## Are you interested in making a difference in the lives of young people?

We are always on the look out for skilled practitioners with relevant experience of teaching and working with children and young people with complex needs, and so our recruitment for tutors continues, with the ever increasing demand for Lapwing services throughout Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex.

Check out the Lapwing [website](#) for job description and further application details.

## Minding the Gap continues to grow!

The Minding The Gap team have continued to work at full capacity throughout the summer and into Autumn, and the project has now been extended for another year!

From 1 Jan 2022 Lapwing are also taking over delivery of the project in West Suffolk and will therefore cover the whole county as the main delivery partner!

Alongside their individual support programmes for young people who are NEET (not in employment, education or training) the team are running regular hubs on job searching, general well-being and are now organising participants to take part in vocational tasters and short courses to gain qualifications in construction and digital media.

For further information on the Minding the Gap project, or to make a referral, see the Lapwing [website](#) or contact: [cflowers@lapwingeducation.com](mailto:cflowers@lapwingeducation.com)



## Term Dates 2021-22

**Autumn Term** (6<sup>th</sup> September - 17<sup>th</sup> December 2021)

**Spring Term:**

*Staff Training Days:* 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Start of term: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Half term: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Last day of term: Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**Summer Term:**

Start of term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Half term: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Last day of term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022\*

*\*Last day of term for post-16 students will be specific to individual students*



For regular updates, follow Lapwing on social media!

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