2015 CALENDAR
This calendar has been created by the young people in Barking and Dagenham College’s LDD Department. Our motto in LDD is ‘Learn Dream Do’—we promote independence, social skills, and vocational learning for all our learners, irrespective of their difficulty or disability.

Our learners are aged between 16 and 25 years; they come from a variety of social and cultural backgrounds and all have something in common—they all have a learning difficulty which means that they have had to overcome numerous barriers to their learning and their independence.

We hope that this calendar will demonstrate not what they can’t do but what they are capable of achieving.

We also hope that it will enable others to be more aware of the difficulties our learners face on a day to day basis.

Notes

New Year's Day .......................... 1
College Opens: Spring Term ........ 6

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Autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. In the UK more than half a million people have autism. For further information please visit the National Autistic Society website.
Cerebral Palsy

Cerebral palsy is a condition that affects movement, posture and co-ordination. It is a wide ranging condition that affects people in many different ways. Visit Scope’s website.

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Epilepsy

Epilepsy is a condition where people experience recurrent seizures. A seizure is caused by a sudden burst of excess electrical activity in the brain, causing a temporary disruption in the normal messages passing between brain cells. Visit the Epilepsy Action website.

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<th>APRIL</th>
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<td>World Autism Awareness Day</td>
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<td>Easter Monday</td>
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<td>College Opens; Summer Term</td>
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<td>St George’s Day</td>
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| College Closes for Easter Break | |
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| Notes                           | |

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Down’s syndrome is a lifelong condition that occurs when a baby’s cells contain an extra chromosome 21. Visit the Down’s Syndrome Association’s website.
Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder is a serious anxiety-related condition where a person experiences frequent intrusive and unwelcome obsessional thoughts, often followed by repetitive compulsions, impulses or urges. Visit the OCD UK website.
Spina Bifida

Spina bifida occurs when a fault in the development of the spinal cord and surrounding bones (vertebrae) leaves a gap or split in the spine. Spina bifida literally means ‘split spine’. Visit the Association for Spina bifida hydrocephalus website.
Turners Syndrome

Turner syndrome is named after Henry Turner, the endocrinologist who first described it in 1938. Turner syndrome (TS) is a medical disorder that affects about 1 in every 2,500 girls. Although researchers don’t know exactly what causes Turner syndrome, they do know that it’s the result of a problem with a girl’s chromosomes.

Girls with Turner syndrome are usually short in height. Those who aren’t treated for short stature reach an average height of about 4 feet 7 inches (1.4 meters). The good news is that when Turner syndrome is diagnosed while a girl is still growing, she can be treated with growth hormone to help her grow taller.
CHARGE syndrome is a recognizable (genetic) pattern of birth defects which occurs in about one in every 9,000 births worldwide. It is an extremely complex syndrome, involving extensive medical and physical difficulties that differ from child to child. The vast majority of the time, there is no history of CHARGE syndrome or any other similar conditions in the family. Babies with CHARGE syndrome are often born with life-threatening birth defects, including complex heart defects and breathing problems. They spend many months in the hospital and undergo many surgeries and other treatments. Swallowing and breathing problems make life difficult even when they come home. Most have hearing loss, vision loss, and balance problems which delay their development and communication. All are likely to require medical and educational intervention for many years. Despite these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, children with CHARGE syndrome often far surpass their medical, physical, educational, and social expectations.
Williams Syndrome

Williams syndrome (WS) is a genetic condition that is present at birth and can affect anyone. It is characterized by medical problems, including cardiovascular disease, developmental delays, and learning disabilities. These occur side by side with striking verbal abilities, highly social personalities and an affinity for music.

Individuals with Williams syndrome have a very endearing personality. They have a unique strength in their expressive language skills, and are extremely polite. They are typically unafraid of strangers and show a greater interest in contact with adults than with their peers.

Most people with Williams syndrome will have mild to severe learning disabilities and cognitive challenges. Young children with Williams syndrome often experience developmental delays.
Costello Syndrome

Costello syndrome, also called faciocutaneoskeletal syndrome or FCS syndrome, is a rare genetic disorder that affects many parts of the body. It is characterized by delayed development and learning disability, distinctive facial features, unusually flexible joints, and loose folds of extra skin, especially on the hands and feet.

Babies with Costello syndrome may be large at birth, but grow more slowly than other children and have difficulty feeding.
**Klinefelter Syndrome:**

Klinefelter syndrome is a genetic condition that results when a boy is born with an extra copy of the X chromosome. Klinefelter syndrome is a common genetic condition affecting males.

Many boys with Klinefelter syndrome have few noticeable symptoms, and the condition may go undiagnosed until adulthood. For others, the condition has a noticeable effect on growth or appearance. Klinefelter syndrome may also cause speech and learning problems in some boys.