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13th May 2022

**Re: The Thomas Group 2022/23**

Dear .....,

The Thomas Group is a small, nurturing educational setting for children aged 11-16 presenting with social, emotional or psychological difficulties that have made attending mainstream education difficult. Priority is given to young people living in the London Borough of Camden or attending local schools. The group is currently located at Camden Learning Centre and the aim is to provide a short term intervention over no more than two terms. The programme is part-time over four days every week. Entry to the group is through Camden's School Inclusion Panel which meets on a bi-monthly basis. Formal enquiries or referrals to the panel should go to:

[dylan.buckle@camden.gov.uk](mailto:dylan.buckle@camden.gov.uk)

Personalised and effective education is provided, helping to keep children motivated, connected to their normal world and preventing them from falling behind or suffering educational failure. The majority of children recruited to the group are receiving support from medical or mental health services. TTG facilitates their recovery from the emotional, psychological and educational deficits they have experienced.

Pupils in The Thomas group typically present with complex and inter-related, special educational needs which affect their ability to learn. This could include one of the following:

- Significant emotional vulnerability or mental health needs affecting their ability to thrive in mainstream school
- Severe and persistent attendance issues in association with significant anxiety, emotional vulnerability and/or school refusal

On a day-to-day basis the normal curriculum is taught and in addition pupils are rehabilitated to a learning environment consisting of class-based group teaching, opportunities for self-supported study and one-to-one tuition and therapeutic interventions. TTG provides a professional but very supportive and collaborative learning environment – tailored to the needs of each individual. Pupils get individual attention from the same staff whilst remaining in a classroom context and over time this generates trust and enables them to re-engage in learning.

Places in The Thomas Group are funded through an SLA (attached) at a cost to schools of £2750 per term. The SLA clearly sets out roles and responsibilities for the placement together with a more detailed overview of the provision and how to make a referral. Pupils will generally be placed on dual-roll with the RFHCS and their home school for the duration of the placement. Any further questions or queries please get in touch or have a look at our website at [www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk](http://www.royalfree.camden.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Moore

**Director of the Thomas Group**