



Latest News From Citizens UK
 Story of the CAIUS House Campaign
 #LetsGetAJATalking

Hi everyone, my name is Eleanor. I am a parent at Ark John Archer. I have been working with parents at the school with Citizens UK and Rory since the Summer term last year. We are parents that are a mixture of ethnic groups, child ages, working and stay at home parents, with children with SEN needs. So we listen to parents across the social spectrum of the school.

Through one to one conversations, group meetings and a survey we identified activities for children in the local area as the top issue for parents, followed by housing and road safety. We then found a link between housing and activities for children. We realised a lot of parents' mental health was affected by being in crowded housing with no activities for children, especially in the holiday periods.

Once we had established our top issue of securing more activities for children in the holiday period - through lots of group meetings and negotiation - we decided to research what was currently on offer, with parents contacting local community centres, sport centres and relevant organisations.

Doing this research, we established that the local community centre CAIUS house was putting on lots of activities for young people, but these were not being taken up by people in the local area.

We thought this could be because of limited advertising. So we invited CAIUS house to our school to build a relationship. They came and heard views of parents and the issues we were facing in the local area. We surveyed over 30 parents in the school and shared that parents were most concerned about activities in the holiday period. The staff at CAIUS were surprised by our findings and eager to work with us in the future to make an inclusive summer programme parents would take up.

This issue is not unique to our parents and school, and we hope that our change can happen in other places too. Our story shows that there is power in numbers, and I want to work with you all to make a better Wandsworth to live in. Think about how much we could achieve if we all come together.

If you would like to find out more about the Ark Citizens UK Parent group, please speak with Deborah Young, Zoie Scriven or Nina Thorpe. Our next coffee morning will be on Wednesday 2nd March at 9am.

Website: <https://www.caiushouse.org/>

