

James Brindley Academy Queen Elizabeth Hospital Newsletter

James Brindley

Queen Elizabeth
Hospital

WELCOME

The aim of this newsletter is to inform teenagers, young adults, families and staff about the educational support patients aged 16-24 are receiving from **James Brindley Academy here at Queen Elizabeth Hospital**. We provide support to young people who are likely to be an inpatient for longer than 5 days so that they may **continue with their studies, training or employment** during their treatment.

RADIOTHERAPY MASK ART

Year 12 QE student **Bradley**, enjoyed a Mask Art session with JBA teacher Jayne Ruisi and **QE Specialist Paediatric Radiographer Liam Herbert**. With Liam's encouragement, Bradley was keen to demonstrate his amazing art skills by creating a wonderful design for his **Radiotherapy Mask** once his treatment was completed.



The **whole family** joined in the teaching session held in Fisher House! Accompanied by mum, dad and siblings, (Paige, Cassie and Amelia), they not only helped Bradley to work on his mask but also created wonderful artwork themselves.

As teachers we know the **benefits of Creative Arts** in the curriculum, but there is now a lot of evidence of healthcare benefits for young people. Using art to transform their mask allows young people and their families to **explore imagination and creativity, express their feelings about a difficult experience, improve self-esteem and confidence** in a safe learning environment.



My name is **Jayne Ruisi**, and I am the James Brindley UHB Charities Specialist Teacher based on YPU Ward 623 at the QE Hospital, Birmingham.

I offer teaching and support to young people **aged 16-24** who are referred by UHB staff to the James Brindley Hospital School and are keen to stay engaged in their studies, training, or employment.

I **work collaboratively** with NHS professionals at the QE to ensure that young people can continue to **fulfil their educational goals and ambitions**. As part of the James Brindley Hospital School, we can offer a wide range of subjects and qualifications, **liaise with schools, colleges, universities, and employers**.

Young people who are inpatients at the QE for longer than five days can also be supported to take external examinations, learn new skills, and engage in online short courses.

ASK THE EXPERT

Name: Lyndsey Clare George, University Hospital's Birmingham

Role: Consultant Haematologist with a special interest in Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Cancer.

Tell us about your work...

I am the consultant in charge of teenagers and young adults with leukaemia and lymphoma at the QE Hospital. We have **one of the largest TYA units in the country** so I'm always pretty busy. Patients come to us from all over the West Midlands, and because we have so many students in Birmingham, we get quite a few young people who are studying here too. Young people with cancer have different needs from either children or older adults, so it is brilliant to have such a big team dedicated to making everything as easy for them as possible.



What do you enjoy most about your work?

Cancer is rare in young people, and our patients (and their families!) are frightened and lonely when they are diagnosed. It is lovely for me to be able to treat them with other people in similar circumstances and watch them relax into their diagnosis and their treatment. I particularly like it when my patients start coming to clinic on their own – it's great to see them taking ownership of their own health independently from their parents.

I'm also in the **Teenage Cancer Trust Book Club**, run by our youth support coordinator together with the YSC from Leeds. Every couple of months we meet on Zoom and discuss the book we have read. **I love reading**, so it is a brilliant excuse for me to spend more time with my nose in a book, but I also think it's really important for me to see young people in a different context and environment. In the majority of cases, the cancer is just one aspect of their full and varied lives. Interestingly we all have pretty similar tastes in books!

Do you think that the Specialist Teacher's role has an impact?

My patients are mostly between 16 and 24 – which is exactly the age when people are planning A-levels, University, Apprenticeships and first jobs. It's really important that cancer doesn't rob them of these important years when they are setting the foundations for their future careers, and this is usually one of their main concerns.

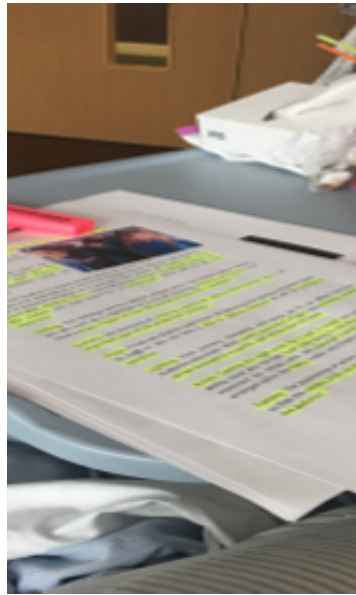
Our specialist teacher means that they can **continue to progress with their education and training in a way that fits around their treatment**, so that when they are well enough to go back they can slot right back in and don't lose too much time. It is also really important to acknowledge that having cancer, and cancer treatment, is a really important milestone for these young people – it gives them experiences and skills and insights that most people of their age don't have. Jayne is a really passionate advocate for this and makes sure this is reflected in all of their applications. **Young people shouldn't miss out on opportunities because of having cancer** – Jayne makes sure this doesn't happen. On a lighter note, she provides some much-needed "normal life" during their inpatient stay – I love seeing my patients doing some math's homework whilst the chemo drips in!!

What is the proudest moment of your career so far?

I was really **proud** to be appointed to this job – I have stepped into a **friendly, supportive and highly skilled team** who have supported me through all the challenges of the last couple of years! Every time I tell someone what I do I get a little shiver of excitement. **It's the best job in the world, with the best team in the world**

"Thank you for everything you did in encouraging Mike to go to college and getting him prepared, and getting him back to study. From a social side he has made new friends and is now experiencing a bit more normality".

LESSONS AT THE BEDSIDE



The presence of a hospital teacher at the bedside can often be met with a level of puzzlement.

Why would a young person need a teacher in hospital?

Having Jayne to support young people at QE helps to **minimise the impact** of medical needs and treatment on education. Jayne teaches at the bedside, in the Day Unit on Ward 623 and also via Teams to ensure no one is missing out!

James Brindley Academy teacher Jayne Ruisi is able to provide bespoke, individually tailored teaching and learning in a range of subjects and qualifications. These include GCSEs, Maths and English Functional Skills, BTEC levels 1-3 and 'A' levels through to dissertations at Degree level. We are also able to provide employability skills and careers information and guidance. We may facilitate external assessments and academic examinations on the Ward 623 Unit, enabling inpatients to complete their studies and employment training. A key element of Jayne's role is to liaise with Universities, Colleges, Schools and employers to support any young person at QE fulfil their educational goals and ambition.

Need our support?

If you are aged 16-24, due to be an inpatient at the QE for longer than 5 days and would like support with your education or training, you can self-refer by scanning the QR code below and completing the questionnaire.

