

ERNEST BEVIN COLLEGE PRESS RELEASE

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TEACHER'S ARCTIC CYCLING EXPEDITION

A teacher at Ernest Bevin College has just received a welcome boost to her preparations for an ambitious expedition to cycle from Ernest Bevin College in South London to the Arctic Circle in July. Lisa Baum, a geography teacher at EBC, has just learnt she has been selected by the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust for a prestigious Travelling Fellowship.

Lisa is planning the expedition to promote cycling and to give students at EBC the opportunity to gain first hand experience of exploration by following their teacher's progress. She will receive a grant to cover travel, food and accommodation costs. The Trust was established on Sir Winston's death in 1965 and awards grants to only around 100 British citizens each year.

"The fundamental aim is to encourage more children to explore their horizons," said Lisa Baum. "We as individuals enjoy a personal challenge and felt that this expedition is something we can aspire to do, as well as hopefully inspiring some of our students at the same time."

Lisa will be joined by EBC colleague Dale Dapaah (deputy head of PE) and Neil Shaw, a development worker, who will act as equipment engineer. They aim to leave the college in Tooting at the end of the summer term. The initial route will follow the London Superhighways no 7 & 3 out through the city. It will then join National Cycle route 1 to head northeast through London and across to Colchester. From here they will join National Route 51 to Harwich to get a ferry to the Hook of Holland. They will follow national cycle routes through Holland, Denmark and Norway to the Arctic Circle.

They will be keeping their colleagues and students up to date with their progress through their website

<http://www.cycle2thecircle.com/>

The expedition has also been selected by the Education through Expeditions not-for-profit Community Interest Company which aims to help educate children about their global environment. Expeditions such as Cycle 2 the Circle are featured on its website and the explorers are expected to supply innovative distance-learning resources that teachers can use in the classroom.

<http://www.educationthroughexpeditions.org/>

The expedition also hopes to raise funds for two charities. One is a local charity, the local South London Motor Neurone Disease, and the other is a charity that provides bikes to key workers in Southern Africa.

The college, which has specialist sports college status, has secured funding to purchase 15 bicycles to be used by the pupils for cycling proficiency classes, local field trips and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

"At the moment very few students cycle to school but we hope to increase that by 5-10% in the first year," says Lisa Baum. "We hope it will continue to rise by 5% in subsequent years."

- Ernest Bevin College is a local authority school for boys in Tooting, SW London with a co-educational Sixth Form. There are 1200 pupils on the roll.
- It has specialist Sport college status since 2000 and extensive new sports facilities were opened in 2007 including a large sports hall, swimming pool, fitness suite and dojo. It is a training camp for the 2012 Olympics.
- It has a second specialism in Mathematics and Computing awarded in 2004.
- Ernest Bevin College was named the sixth most improved school in the country in 2009, for the percentage of pupils gaining 5A*-C GCSEs including English and Maths.
- 'Ernest Bevin College is a good college with high aspirations and expectations.' Ofsted March 2007.

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The expedition logo has been designed by Karim Isaac-Shah, a Year 10 student at Ernest Bevin College



Deer in Richmond Park provide a suitable backdrop as Lisa Baum and Dale Dappah, teachers at Ernest Bevin College, prepare for their cycling expedition to the Arctic Circle. Photo credit: Magalita B.



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