

## Transforming Futures Trust open The Haven @ACETiverton!

**Staff, friends, Trustees and key partners involved in delivering this fantastic new project gathered in Tiverton this week to celebrate the opening of The Haven @ACE Tiverton.**

The Haven is a specially designed new building that allows ACE Tiverton to extend the number of young people with Special Educational Needs that attend the school. ACE Tiverton is part of Transforming Futures Trust, who provide educational services across Devon and Cornwall.

The Haven provides a specific nurture-based environment for young people with a range of special education needs, linked to autism and other communication and interaction needs.

The Haven has sensory rooms and is designed to meet the sensory and emotional needs of students; to allow students to access their learning. There is also a specially designed outside area for students to enjoy learning and socialise together.

Hannah Smart, Executive Headteacher said: “We are so proud of Haven, it enables us to develop our specialist practice by creating a nurture informed, family-based learning environment. This smaller, more personalised provision supports students in key stage three as they transition from primary school. The Haven features two classes named after famous people with identified additional needs such as Autism; this provides our students with real life role models. Jessica-Jane Applegate and Chris Packham are the famous names that inspire our young people.”

The opening on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September gave those involved in planning, design and rebuild of the space a chance to see it in action. Representatives of the Building Contractor, West Country Maintenance Solutions Ltd and DELT, the Shared Services provider for TFT, and representatives from Devon County Council attended to see the building as it is used by students.

Haven Co-ordinator, Joanna Panton commented “It is a very safe space, which allows the students to move freely in our grounds. It is a very family friendly environment which helps our students focus on their learning and progress.”

Newly appointed class teacher, Sarah O’Connor said “We work slightly differently to other schools; our focus is to make a connection with the young people and meet their individual needs which helps create a relationship that allows them to learn.”

Matthew Barnes, Chief Executive of Transforming Futures Trust. He said: “This is an exciting development at ACE Tiverton and I am very grateful to all who have worked so hard to make it possible. Our staff do a wonderful job with great results, and it is good news that we can now offer places to more young people who need them.”

WMS were the successful contractors, working alongside Devon County Council Building Team and Southwest Norse, who designed the building. Steve Oakley, WMS Client Services Manager said, ‘We were honoured to be part of this special refurbishment project and are immensely proud of the results achieved!’

WMS Area Manager Chris Snell said “Our new team performed admirably here and have enjoyed it enormously. It’s always nice to hand over a project to the delight of the client and end users and it has been even more satisfying with the Haven because of the lovely feedback they have

taken the time to give us. We know we have made a real difference here and thank everyone involved for considering WMS and the support and thanks they have given us along the way.”

Haven has opened this month with 18 students aged between 11 and 14. The Orchard, which is the new name for the rest of the school campus, has 71 students aged 11 – 16.

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For more information, interviews or pictures contact [mark@markwall.co.uk](mailto:mark@markwall.co.uk). You can read more about the Trust at <https://www.transformingfutures.org.uk/>