

19th July 2006

ASHTON BURKINSHAW SUPPORTS SPECIALIST SCHOOL

Ashton Burkinshaw's new Chislehurst branch is delighted to announce its support of The Majorie McClure School in Chislehurst.

The residential letting agency has joined the school's register of Valued Community Partners who have pledged to support the school in raising £20,000 as part of their bid to apply for the status of "Specialist School" under a new government scheme.

Marjorie McClure is a special school, which provides outstanding care and support for school children between the ages of 3 to 19 years of age who have special needs. Their pupils may have physical disabilities, medical needs and often associated speech and language difficulties, visual impairment and learning difficulties.

As part of the school's application, they are required to raise £20,000 from business, local community and general donations towards improvements in their facilities. If their bid for Specialist School status, under the category of 'physical needs', is successful the £20,000 will be matched with a grant of £100,000 by the Department for Education and Skills, and a further annual grant of £60,000 additional funding for four years thereafter.

The money raised with the help of its Valued Community Partners and the government grant will allow the school to build a new indoor play area and fitness area and will help the school invest in its most valuable asset – their team of caring and experienced teachers and support staff.

The aim of the school is to equip their pupils for life outside the school and beyond into adulthood, and a successful bid will enable them to offer an even stronger curriculum with more enrichment activities and clubs for the pupils.

In July, Ashton Burkinshaw donated a gas barbeque as a raffle prize in the School's Summer Fete and its Chislehurst branch has pledged to sponsor the school's annual Presentation Day when special awards are given to children in each Key Stage in recognition of achievement. This year the awards will be given on 20th October when Ashton Burkinshaw will be organising a balloon race for the children.

The Chislehurst branch will be displaying an exhibition of artwork provided by the pupils of the Majorie McClure School, at its official High Street branch opening and Open Day on 22nd July.

Photo: AB provides support at the Majorie McClure School's Summer Fete

