



24 September 2021

Dear Parents,

It is with great pride and pleasure that we are inviting you to a very special event at Centre Academy East Anglia: an address by our most famous alumni, Mr Alfie Bowen. Since graduating from the school three years ago, this young man has forged the most incredible career as a wildlife photographer and author. Alfie has appeared frequently on television, in the newspapers and in interviews with a number of famous persons who have made major contributions to the challenges of protecting wildlife throughout the world while also experiencing the beauty of these increasingly vulnerable creatures. The artistry of our famous alumni has been very much evident in his newly published book, *Wild World: Through the Autistic Eye*, which contains not only superb pictures but a text with each one in which Alfie explains what the particular shot means and how he achieved it.

We would hope that the above would be enough to excite our entire school community, from children to parents to staff. But there is more—much more, and this is of particular significance. You see, Alfie is autistic, and when he arrived at CAEA, he was, as he admits, a rather broken young person, someone who did not fit in and therefore had been essentially cast out by the educational establishment. He was embraced by CAEA, and we'll let him tell you the rest of the story.

That story, however, is inspirational, and to Alfie's credit, it is one that forms the basis of many lectures and presentations that he gives throughout the UK. In essence, he has become a major spokesperson for those autistic persons who as yet are not able to speak for themselves. Alfie Bowen is the most compelling of speakers, a young man who is making a major contribution to helping the nation understand autism, its challenges and, indeed, the myths that surround it.

This will be an all-school event with an audience of children, parents, staff and press. Alfie will make an address tailored for our children and their parents, will share some of his superb images, and will sign copies of his new book for all those interested. Here are the details:

Date: Friday, 1 October

Place: The Hall, CAEA

Time: 1:30-3:00

In all candour, this is one time when we as a school community really should come together. Please note that your personal invitation is attached, and we look forward to welcoming your next Friday.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Salthouse".

Mrs Kim Salthouse
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D. Rollo".

Dr Duncan Rollo
Principal & CEO Centre Academy Schools