

SPRING 2022



Welcome from the CEO

As we reach the end of our spring term, I have been reflecting back with pride on our collective achievements over the past three months.

There has been so much incredible work taking place across our schools, from reading initiatives and school musical productions to art and design awards and sporting success. It is also heartening to be able to welcome visitors back into our schools and for our pupils to be able to take part in school trips and activities once more.

Collaboration has also been a thread that has weaved its way through the last term, and we continue to see the incredible benefits of our school communities working together, in our

mission to transform tomorrow, today. Looking forwards, the arrival of spring flowers and the promise of warmer weather and lighter evenings, really gives a sense of hope and anticipation for the weeks ahead.

Of course, however, world events have meant our thoughts turn to the people of Ukraine. I am so proud of the compassion and generosity shown by our school communities.

Every day our pupils and staff are truly living out our commitment to transforming lives. Our children and young people are intensely caring and a credit to their families.

*Wishing you
all a wonderful
Easter break*

James Higham
CEO

We are incredibly proud to announce that a group of pupils from Houlton School have won a prestigious V&A Innovate National Schools Award.



The pupils, who are all members of Houlton's Obama College, took part in the national challenge to design a solution to a real-world problem.

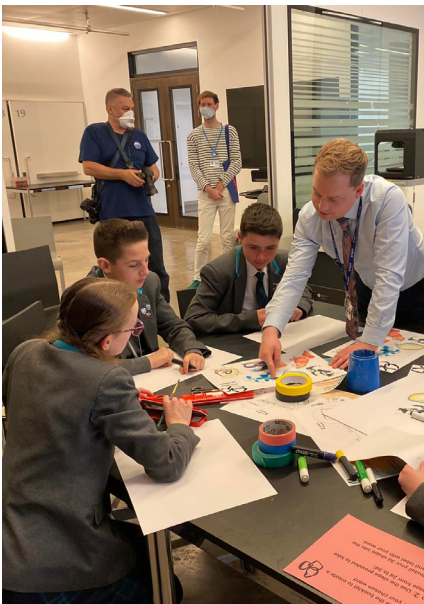
With close to 2,000 pupils taking part, 119 teams entering ideas and just 50 pupils from across the country selected for the Annual Pitching and Awards Day at the V&A Museum in London, the competition was tough.

Taking inspiration from the V&A's 'Design: 1900 – Now' galleries, pupils were tasked with proposing design ideas for the themes of Renew, Connect, and Move. This included a focus on more sustainable uses of materials and ways of living, ways to support people to (re)connect following COVID-19, and more inclusive ways to keep active and enjoy the outdoors.

After wowing the judges with their entry, the Houlton School team walked away with the award for the Move category. Their design, entitled 'The Rewalkable' was an adjustable, moisture sensing walking stick for the partially sighted, made from recycled products.

Mr Russell Hill, Subject Leader: Creative at Houlton School, said: "Our young designers were so excited to win this award. They have worked incredibly hard and it was fantastic that the judges recognised their incredible creativity, innovation and teamwork.

"Everyone showed such maturity, resilience and enthusiasm, not just for the project, but for the impact that creating sustainable items can and could have in the future."



Celebrating World Book Day across the Trust

Pupils across the Transforming Lives Educational Trust took part in a host of events to mark the 25th World Book Day.

At Henry Hinde Infant School, staff surprised pupils with a 'Masked Reader' challenge. Taking inspiration from the TV show - The Masked Singer - staff members recorded a masked video of themselves reading extracts from their favourite children's books. While pupils across every year group were also invited to take part in a school-wide photo competition, encouraging them to recreate the covers of well-known books.

Pupils from Henry Hinde Junior School created their very own costumes to wear in celebration of their love of reading. Each class selected a theme for their designs, ranging from children's classics including 101 Dalmatians, Alice in Wonderland, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the Wizard of Oz, to modern favourites such as the The Day the Crayons Quit, Magnus Chase and Varmints. Year 6 pupils even chose to focus on their favourite book - The Thesaurus!

At Ashlawn School, pupils and staff alike embraced the opportunity to dress up in a host of wonderful costumes as part of a school-wide competition and across each year group there were many discussions about the joy of reading a good book.

While at Houlton School, pupils worked in teams to create their own children's books. They had to plan, write, illustrate, edit and publish their creations as six-page storybooks designed to help young children to learn. The topics of their books varied, including the numbers 1-10, key animal facts, how to identify emotions, making friends, being confident, facing fears and many more. The finished products have now been completed and will be delivered to Reception pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School.

James Higham, CEO of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust, said: "Across the Trust, we love the opportunity to hold special events for World Book Day.

"Reading is, of course, an integral part of our curriculum, so it is fantastic to see the fun and creative ways that pupils and staff have celebrated the joy of books together."





Henry Hinde Junior School launches new reading initiative

Pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School have been benefiting from a new reading initiative that was introduced earlier this term.

The 'Accelerated Reader' is a programme designed to encourage children to develop their love of books, extending their vocabulary and fluency in reading as well as building a lifelong desire to read for pleasure.

In addition to a revamped library, featuring lots of new books for pupils to choose from, children are expected to read for 5 to 10 minutes a day at home before having their diary signed by their parent or carer. Once children have finished their book, they will have the opportunity in school to take an online quiz to test their

understanding of what they have read.

Jennie Nurse, Principal at Henry Hinde Junior School, said: "Reading opens up such a magical world for children to explore, so we encourage our pupils to enjoy reading at school and at home with their families every day.

"We are so pleased with the way that the children have embraced our new Accelerated Reader programme, they particularly love the chance to visit the library and pick out an exciting new book."

Marking Safer Internet Day

In an increasingly digital world, it can sometimes feel difficult to keep track of what our children are accessing online.

Safer Internet Day offered the perfect

opportunity for our schools to revisit this topic and make the most of a range of new resources that were published for schools, pupils and parents.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School: "E-safety can often be a daunting topic for parents, particularly in relation to what our very youngest pupils should be taught about in relation to online safety.

"Through some dedicated lessons and a range of informative resources for families to use at home we have been able to have those conversations together."

For further information and a selection of guidance materials for different age groups please visit:

www.saferinternet.org.uk

Focusing on future careers

As part of National Careers Week, pupils at Ashlawn School were encouraged to explore potential careers and think about the employability skills they would need for the future.

During a 'Careers Speed Dating' event, Year 9 pupils had the chance to talk to a host of 29 incredible employers who gave up their time to share their experiences and expertise in relation to the world of work.

Also this term, Year 12 students have had the chance to undertake work experience placements to find out more about their chosen sectors. For one student, Lilia, this meant spending two days with firefighters at the London Battersea Heliport, learning about aviation and aircraft firefighting. While another student spent her time based in an international school in Brussels, Belgium.

Siobhan Evans, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "We have been blown away by the support we have received from employers as part of our careers provision.

"This partnership and insight into real-life working experiences is just invaluable."



Pupil leaders at Henry Hinde Junior School

Over the last few months, pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School have been taking on a range of leadership opportunities to support their peers.

The Junior Leadership Team (JLT), which consists of two pupils from each class, brings together pupils' ideas for developing life at school. Meeting every few weeks, pupils have the chance to express their views on the topic of the day and, on reaching Year 6, candidates can put themselves forward to become Head Boy and Head Girl as part of school-wide elections.

The school is also proud of the role that newly appointed Peer Wellbeing Mentors and Reading Ambassadors have been playing in life at Henry

Hinde Juniors. In their respective roles, pupils receive a range of training and guidance in order to be able to develop the skills required to support pupils of all ages across the school.

Jennie Nurse, Principal at Henry Hinde Junior School, said: "We believe that it is vitally important for our pupils to be involved in life across their school, to have a say in how we operate and have the chance to support others.

"We value the hard work of all of the pupils who take part, and can see the pride they take in the roles they hold."



World Class Schools at Houlton

Houlton School provided an incredible base for the 2022 World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM) Assessment Centre

During the event, Houlton welcomed 175 pupils from 30 primary and secondary schools for a day of challenges in order to achieve WCSQM re-accreditation.

In order to achieve World Class Quality Mark accreditation, pupils must demonstrate World Class characteristics, using the WCSQM framework of characteristics as a benchmark of the skills and competencies young people need to thrive in an ever-changing global economy.

Visiting pupils were given two weeks to prepare and a day to complete eleven innovative, attractive and environmentally friendly outdoor and indoor spaces, all incorporating the Houlton School values. Pupils worked together to design a sensory garden, eco-friendly seating, murals, sculptures and tree hangings, supported by Houlton's staff and partners as industry experts, with advice from a focus group of Houlton's Year 7 pupils who acted as Project Managers for the day.

Michael McCulley, Principal at Houlton School, said: "It was a great honour to host this year's World Class Schools event for schools from across the country.

"As a new school, we were unable to make our own application for accreditation, but it is certainly something we are working towards for the future. That said, our pupils did a marvellous job as Project Managers and we now have a fantastic array of unique installations across the school site for our pupils to enjoy."

Standing with
the people of
Ukraine

Our school communities couldn't fail to be affected by the plight of the people of Ukraine at this sad time.

Over the last few weeks we have seen many of our pupils, staff and members of our wider community doing what they can to help those in need. This has ranged from fundraising activities and the donation of essential items, to other in-school and community-based activities in aid of those affected.

James Higham, CEO of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust said: "My thanks go to the pupils, staff and parents and carers who have clearly demonstrated our Trust's value of kindness through their generous contributions, which I know will be greatly appreciated."



Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

After months of preparation and an intense period of rehearsals, Ashlawn School's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* was a huge success.

The popular musical, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber, featured performances from pupils across each year group, with important behind the scenes work also being carried out by pupils in order to create costumes, props and backdrops as well as coordinating the lighting and sound throughout.

Daisy, a performer in the musical, said: "I've done every show

at Ashlawn, and this has been my favourite by far, such a great way to end this journey, especially with such amazing people."

We're also pleased to announce that, Joseph, a Year 13 student who took on the lead role in the production has now been selected to complete a three-year degree in Musical Theatre at Arts Ed in Chiswick, London – one of the UK's top theatre schools.

Siobhan Evans, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "I am always so incredibly proud of the work that our pupils and staff put into our school productions – and this was no different!

"It was wonderful to be able to welcome full audiences back following the covid restrictions and to witness so much appreciation for the creative talents of our pupils."

Gymnast has Henry Hinde Pupils jumping for joy

Pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School had an exciting visit from ex-gymnast Carolyn Robinson as part of an initiative called Real Gym, earlier this term.

Over the course of the day, Carolyn worked with classes across the school to provide fun and stimulating

gymnastics exercises. The sessions, which were designed to create maximum energy but with minimal equipment, proved a real hit amongst the pupils.

Alongside the lively sessions for pupils, Carolyn also provided training for staff after school so that they will be equipped with the information they need to be able to deliver more gymnastics sessions in the future.

Kylie Coulson, PE coordinator at Henry Hinde Infant School, said: "Keeping active is a vital part of every child's education, as well as being important for their mental and physical health.

"We are always looking for new ways to champion PE across the school, so we jumped at the chance to take up this inspiring opportunity to involve the whole school in an exciting gymnastics workshop."



Let Girls Play

Henry Hinde Infant School was proud to take part in the Biggest Ever Football Session.

The event, which forms part of the FA and Barclays Let Girls Play campaign saw over 750 primary and secondary schools across the country coming together to run girls football sessions in school.

The initiative, which also provides a range of session ideas and resource cards for teachers, highlights the importance of unlocking equal opportunities for girls to participate in football at every level.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School, said: "The girls had a fabulous time during the football sessions, there was such a buzz amongst everyone that took part, and we look forward to providing more opportunities like this in the future."

Celebrating sporting success

This term, pupils at Ashlawn School have celebrated a number of sporting successes that we thought deserved a mention:

- Lila in Year 8 has been named the U18 Ladies English Golf Champion after competing against young women from across the country in the national finals.
- Luke in Year 11 competed in the U18 Men's Artistic Gymnastic English Championships, which took place in London. At the event he was crowned U18 Parallel Bars Champion, taking second place on Rings and taking 4th place in the all-round competition.
- Congratulations also go to Cameron who was in Year 11 last year. He has been training at the U17 England Rugby camp over the last few months.





Ashlawn
School



HOULTON
SCHOOL

Support your local community: Become a school governor

The Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET) is currently seeking volunteers to join its governing bodies.

Why should I become a governor?

Alongside our dedicated and talented staff, our passionate and committed governors (known as AIM Partners) have a vital role to play in managing our schools.

From acting as a critical friend to Principals and leadership teams, to developing strategies to ensure our schools run as effectively as possible – as an AIM Partner, your contribution could make a real difference to the lives of local children.

Becoming an AIM Partner also provides an opportunity to learn about how a school is managed, to see first-hand how your efforts help raise standards, and develop new skills along the way.

I am not an education expert, how can I contribute?

AIM Partners are not expected to be education experts, on the contrary, it is the diverse knowledge and experience of our AIM Partners that enables us to bring out the best in our schools and develop long term plans to provide the best possible education for every child.

We welcome volunteers from a range of backgrounds and with a wealth of expertise to join our AIM Partner team. Perhaps you have a background in finance, law or IT, or a specialism in HR, management or another discipline that provides valuable transferable skills. Ultimately, however, we are seeking volunteers from all backgrounds, who want to contribute to our school communities.

You may also be the parent or carer of a current or former pupil, which also brings an incredibly important perspective.

