



Welcome from the CEO

Spring is a time of transformation and possibility, where we see the world reborn around us. It can often feel that way in schools too, where brighter days bring about a renewed focus and optimism, creating the right conditions to explore new learning opportunities both in and out of the classroom.

Our schools are certainly making the most of this time, with national events like World Book Day and Children's Mental Health Week inspiring exciting and thought-provoking activities that raise awareness of the joys and benefits of reading, and the importance of taking care of our mental health and wellbeing.

This term we've also had pupils stretching outside their comfort zones, trying new sports, spending time

abroad and visiting higher education institutions - enrichment activities all designed to broaden horizons, increase self-resilience and encourage pupils to consider their futures.

Ashlawn School heard words of wisdom from Paralympian, Sam Ruddock, and Houlton School pupils have made the national press by being shortlisted for the prestigious V&A: Innovate Award

for the second year running - a huge congratulations to everyone involved!

As ever, there is so much to celebrate and hard work to recognise across all our schools, so this newsletter features just a glimpse of some of the highlights.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Easter break.

James Higham
CEO

Transforming Lives Educational Trust

Celebrating World Book Day across the Trust

Celebrating the joys of reading and helping children discover new books and authors, World Book Day is always one of the highlights in our school calendars. Here's how the TLET family marked the occasion:

Henry Hinde Infant School celebrated this year's World Book Day with a range of wonderful activities. Staff and pupils alike dressed up as much-loved book characters, with pupils bringing in their favourite books to talk about with their friends.

Throughout the day there were opportunities for pupils to explore fiction and non-fiction texts as well as enjoying poetry. They also had the chance to investigate illustrations, discuss goodie and baddie characters and create story maps to delve into the details of some children's classics.

At Henry Hinde Junior School children in each class could be found dressed up as their favourite book characters, this included a class of bees, a whole year group of Mr Men and Little Miss and some fantastic Mr Foxes!

During the day the school's reading ambassadors arranged a variety of activities including 'Guess the shelfie' where children had to guess which bookshelf belonged to which teacher. At the end of the day, children chose from a variety of books and had story time with different members of staff.

Ashlawn School pupils and staff came to school in some incredible outfits inspired by favourite books, with the



school playing host to Lady Macbeth, Ms. Trunchbull, The Eye of Sauron and several staff and pupils from Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, to name but a few of the famous literary characters in attendance.

While Houlton School welcomed children's author, Ele Fountain, for a host of inspirational reading and writing activities. During the special event, the author of 'Boy 87' spoke to Year 7 pupils about her book, the creative process behind putting a pen to paper and the incredible power of literature. Fascinating Q&A and seminar sessions inspired pupils across the year group, before some of this term's

hardest working pupils were selected to take part in writing workshops with Ms Fountain.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School, said: "World Book Day is an amazing opportunity to celebrate all the joy that reading can bring and we love to come up with novel ways to make the most of it.

"For our children, who are at the very start of their school journey, encouraging a love of reading from an early age is incredibly important.

"There is just something so special about opening up a book and reading stories together."



National Storytelling Week

To mark this year's National Storytelling Week, Henry Hinde Junior School ran a range of activities for pupils.

Alongside sharing stories across classes, there were reading meetings with parents, an after school book fair and some fantastic drama workshops, as well as a surprise video featuring staff reading in funny places around school. The children were also excited to welcome teachers from Houlton School and TLET's CEO for storytelling sessions and workshops.

Jennie Nurse, Principal, said: "We're proud to be part of a wider school family, so it has been brilliant to work alongside Houlton School and our Trust CEO to deliver brilliant activities for our pupils.

"Our thanks go to everyone who helped us to make the week extra-special."

Brilliant Trip to the University of Oxford

28 Year 8 pupils from Houlton School took a trip to Hertford College, part of the University of Oxford, to launch Houlton School's first cohort of pupils taking part in The Brilliant Club's Scholars' Programme.

The Brilliant Club works across the UK, supporting students from all backgrounds to access the most competitive universities, and to succeed when they get there.

During their visit, Houlton School pupils listened to a presentation on the programme before taking part in a session on study skills to support an assignment that they will produce, for which they will receive a university-style grade.

There was also the opportunity to meet with current undergraduates for a guided tour, visiting the Ashmolean Museum, The Bodleian Library and to walk over Oxford's famous 'Bridge of Sighs'.

To end the day, pupils learned more about studying at university and what life as an undergraduate offers young people.

Angela Lancini, Assistant Principal, said: "It was wonderful to see pupils grow in confidence and to recognise that the study skills being promoted by the Brilliant Club are very similar to those encouraged by Houlton School, such as using visual prompts, critical thinking skills and reducing information into manageable units.

"All the pupils learned so much about

undergraduate life and the opportunities a university route could offer them. It was both rewarding and inspiring that some pupils, who had never even considered studying A-levels before, began to believe that university was the right future path for them.

"It will help us to continue to raise our pupils' aspirations and engage their growth mindset during this academic year and beyond."

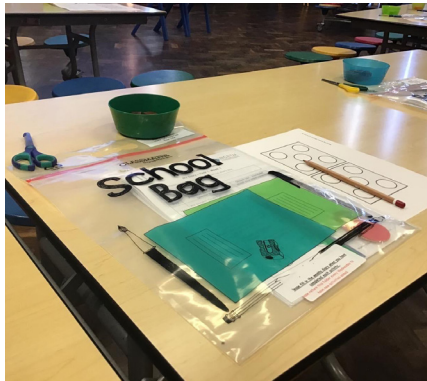
Being a part of The Brilliant Club's Scholars' Programme is an exciting new venture for Houlton School, which will also be introduced to Year 7s in the Summer Term.



Henry Hinde Infant School Maths Masters

Parents and carers of pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School are becoming Maths Masters under the tutelage of Maths Mastery teacher and Assistant Principal, Becky O'Neill.

Along with her duties as Assistant Principal and class teacher, Mrs. O'Neill supports other schools around the West Midlands with the National



Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics, demonstrating how to develop Maths Mastery in the classroom.

Maths mastery is a teaching and learning approach that aims for pupils to develop a deep understanding of maths. This approach aims to build a strong foundation of knowledge and skills that pupils can draw upon as they progress through their education.

Mrs. O'Neill runs workshops for parents and carers to learn about maths activities they can do at home with their children, before spending time

working one on one with their child and putting the learning into practice.

Fleur Edwards, Principal, said: "We are extremely privileged to benefit from Mrs. O'Neill's role as a practitioner of Maths Mastery, and hope that many parents will join our workshops to understand how to support their children's learning in a welcoming and supportive atmosphere.

"Too often, the memories of bad experiences during our own time in school means that parents might unconsciously veer away from supporting their child's learning in this subject.

"With our workshops, we hope to reassure parents that learning styles have moved on massively and that we are here to support them in supporting their children."



Houlton pupils are commended at V&A Innovate National Schools Awards

We are incredibly proud to announce that a group of pupils from Houlton School have taken part in the prestigious V&A Innovate National Schools Awards.

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, 270 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 Adapt, Care & Disrupt.

During the Pitching and Awards Day, our Houlton School pupils spent the day taking part in creative workshops with designers, where they also saw their

work on display and stood up in front of a full auditorium to showcase their brilliant design projects to a panel of industry judges.

Russell Hill, Subject Team Leader: Creative, said: "After wowing the judges with their entry, the Houlton School team walked away with a special recognition for their entry and were commended for their innovative and practical device that supports the neurodivergent population.

"Please join us in congratulating our young designers on such an incredible achievement!"

Bonjour Paris

Twenty-one Ashlawn School pupils studying French GCSE or A Level, spent four sunny days in Paris earlier this term.

The pupils had a fantastic time exploring the city's landmarks, including walking the typical Parisian streets of Montmartre, visiting the Eiffel Tower, cruising along the Seine River and, of course, trying macarons, croissants and pains au chocolat on the Champs Elysées. They even got to meet 'La Joconde' (also known as Mona Lisa) herself in Le Louvre.

Paul Brockwell, Principal, said: "Learning another language offers so many opportunities and skill sets to pupils; from broadening personal horizons through the study and exploration of another culture and history to improving memory and problem-solving skills, not to mention opening up additional employment opportunities.

"Our pupils were outstanding throughout the trip; they showed curiosity and fully embraced French culture. We could not be prouder of them and we hope this study visit encourages a lifetime love of cultural and linguistic exploration."



Spectacular science

Year 3 pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School have been working with an unusual new member of staff, 'Mr. Bony', the school's skeleton, as part of their work on 'How do we keep our bodies healthy?'

The pupils have been dancing up a storm, labelling body parts and using jelly to explore what our muscles are really like.

While Year 5 pupils have been conducting lots of exciting science experiments as part of the Project Based Learning topic, "How do you make magic real?" They have looked at filtration, soluble materials and something called 'Oobleck'. It all

sounds like something straight out of Hogwarts!

Ellie Swidryk, Assistant Principal, said: "Our pupils have certainly been fascinated by this term's Project Based Learning.

"Each activity has brought about so many questions and ideas for the pupils to explore. It has been brilliant to see."

Opening up opportunities in sport

This term, there have been opportunities galore for pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School to try out new sports.

The whole school was lucky to have cricket taster sessions provided by All Stars Cricket, part of Warwickshire Cricket Board. The children were laughing and enjoying the session throughout the day as they developed their catching, throwing, batting and fielding skills.

Children in Reception have been using Real Gymnastics, which has included learning how to balance and make different shapes using their bodies. The school's newly trained pupil play leaders have also become fantastic role models for their peers, using the new skills they have learned to teach the other children new games.

While a group of talented pupils have also just received confirmation that they have passed their Tae Kwon Do grading – something that is particularly impressive at such a young age.



Kylie Coulson, PE Coordinator, said: “What a term it has been for sport at our school!

“Each and every day we aim to ensure we are equipping children for a world of possibilities. In sport, in particular, we are encouraging the children to develop a lifelong love of being active and healthy.

“They are also gaining valuable skills in fundamental movement as well as learning to work together as a team.”

Ashlawn School pupils compete in the National Indoor Athletics Championship

A group of Ashlawn School pupils took part in the National Indoor Athletics Championships this February, achieving excellent results and flying the flag for Ashlawn School.

The National Indoor Athletics Championship is an annual athletics competition, which took place at Birmingham's Utilita Arena this year. The championship features the top indoor track and field athletes from across the country, competing in a range of events including sprints, hurdles, jumps, throws, and middle-distance races.

Paul Brockwell, Principal, said: “Our pupils all competed in various events and achieved amazing results. We are so proud of them all for competing at such a high level, demonstrating excellence and the importance of aiming high. Well done all!”



Paralympic athlete inspires pupils at Ashlawn School

Ashlawn School had an inspiring visitor this term, Paralympic track cycling athlete Sam Ruddock who delivered an assembly for pupils in Ruddock College, the College House named after him.

Sam represented Great Britain in the F35 classification in the 100 metres and shot put events, for athletes with cerebral palsy. He is the British Record holder for the F35 Shot Put and the C1 Kilometre Time Trial, specialising in the track sprint events. But it is in the sport of para track cycling that Sam has found his true calling, becoming the MC1 Kilometre World Champion and winning the gold medal in late 2022.

Sam grew up in Rugby and attended Bishop Wolston School until the age of 16 when he was awarded a scholarship at Rugby School. Born with spastic diplegia, a form of cerebral palsy, Sam's condition has affected the lower half of his body throughout his life, impacting his flexibility, balance and coordination. Sam's passion for sports outweighed the limitations of his disability, and as a schoolboy he took part in basketball and American football. After being spotted and coached whilst studying at Loughborough University, Sam began his career as an International Paralympian.

Sam spoke to pupils about his journey to a Gold Medal and the barriers that he faced, sharing some great advice with pupils, including:

- Don't 'comment' unless it's a positive 'contribution'.
- Take every opportunity that life throws at you.
- Your teachers are invested in you - make the most of that opportunity.
- Learn from your mistakes and plan how you can do things better next time round.
- Every mistake is a learning opportunity.
- When you are feeling mad, scared or anxious, talk to someone - mental health is as important as physical health.

Sam's final piece of advice was: "You can walk away from any task with your pride if you give all of your effort."

Sam said he felt very honoured that a school in his home town had named a college after him.

Jayne Delves, Senior Vice Principal, said: "We feel very lucky and proud to welcome Sam to our school to share his inspirational story with our pupils.

"His sage advice and inspirational story make him a true role model for our pupils and we look forward to welcoming him back in the future."



Henry Hinde Presents Happy's Circus

Henry Hinde Junior School PTFA and Friends of Henry Hinde Infant School will be hosting Happy's Circus on the grounds of Henry Hinde Junior School on Friday 23rd June, with gates opening at 4.30pm.

Tickets are now on sale for the event, which is open to the whole community.

Further information can be found here:

Event page

<https://fb.me/e/60eOwsfjv>

Ticket page

<https://friends-of-henry-hinde-infant-school.sumupstore.com>



Support your local community:

Become a school governor

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.



Ashlawn
School



HOULTON
SCHOOL

