



Ashlawn School has been widely praised by Ofsted during a recent inspection

## Welcome from the CEO

As we reach the end of another academic year, it is with a mixture of pride and emotion that I write to you for the final time as CEO of this incredible Trust family.

This year has been an exciting one, with so much for us to celebrate and reflect upon.

Some recent highlights have included Ofsted's praise for the transformation that has taken place at Ashlawn School, as well as the promising plans recently announced for the future of our primary provision – both of which are featured in this edition of the newsletter.

As always, our pupils and students have continued to inspire us with their determination, creativity, and kindness. Whether through academic success, personal development,

or contributions to the wider school community, they have shown what it means to live out our ambitions every day.

Of course, none of this would be possible without our amazing staff team, whose unwavering dedication and commitment make our schools such special places to learn and grow.

I am also deeply grateful to you, our parents and carers and members of our wider community, for your continued partnership. Your support at home and involvement in Trust life make a real difference.

So, as my final note, I want to simply say thank you. It has been a huge honour to be TLET's CEO and to serve this remarkable community – I will carry the experience with me always.

Wishing you all a happy and restful summer break.

**James Higham**

CEO, Transforming Lives Educational Trust

## Strategic Ambitions



### Nurture Potential

We flourish in the places we create together.



### Inspire Community

We champion each other to make a difference.



### Deliver Excellence

We strive to achieve our best.



### “Proud doesn’t even begin to describe it...”: Ashlawn School applauded by Ofsted

Ashlawn School has been widely praised by Ofsted following a full inspection in June that reviewed all aspects of school life.

In the last graded inspection in 2022, the school was given the lowest possible grading, but this time the inspectors found that there had been a “profound shift in culture”, “significant improvement” and a community that is “working together...with even greater ambition for the school.”

As a result, the school has now been judged as Good in all areas – with many of the comments reflecting that Ashlawn is close to even better outcomes.

Paul Brockwell, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: “When I first walked through the doors in 2022, the potential in this school was tangible. With TLET we have systematically looked at how we can bring that promise to life in everything that we do – and the way that the community has responded to that challenge has been uplifting.

“There is not one element of this school that hasn’t moved forward with pace, and that is testament to the fact that we are all committed to one thing – and that is “our best, always”.

Inspectors noted that behaviour expectations are “high and clearly communicated”, lessons are “calm and purposeful”, the well-designed curriculum is “ambitious” and that pupils “work hard and achieve well”.

The Sixth Form received particular praise, with students “valuing the quality of their learning and wider experiences”. It was also noted that those in the sixth form are “impressively keen to contribute to the school community and are excellent role models.”



ASHLAWN  
SCHOOL



“The myriad of extra-curricular and enrichment opportunities” was also praised, as was the fact that “staff feel valued” and “parents talk positively about having their voice heard”.

Paul added: “The most important thing is that our students shone throughout the inspection – and their attitudes, behaviours and successes are the best reflection of a school.”

Within the report, TLET’s leadership was also recognised for taking “decisive action” after the last inspection. Due to this, inspectors concluded “all areas for improvement have been addressed effectively”.

James Higham, CEO at TLET, said:

“The last two and a half years have been significant for Ashlawn, and the whole team should be acknowledged for their collective efforts and commitment.

“No stone has been left unturned, and taking the relatively rare step of jumping two judgement grades in one inspection is testament to this. It is an amazing feeling that I hope everyone associated with Ashlawn will feel part of – proud doesn’t even begin to describe it.

“This is, however, a step on a much bigger journey. There is more that we want to aspire to and achieve – and that is what makes the future for Ashlawn School so exciting.”



### Innovative plans to reimagine the future of the Trust’s primary school provision have been announced this term.

Proposals have been approved to enable Houlton School to become an all-through provision – meaning that children will have the option to learn there from their first day of primary school until the moment that they head off to university or employment. Henry Hinde Infant and Junior Schools will also be joining together on one site.

James Higham, CEO at TLET, said: “Our Trust is committed to bringing people together to inspire a sense of community and help our children to thrive.

“As part of this, it is right that we look at every opportunity to enhance what we do in our schools, and two things have come together that can really enhance what we are able to offer.”

At Houlton School a purpose-built primary building will be developed next to the existing secondary school by Urban&Civic, the master developers of the wider Houlton community. Planning permission has also just been granted, meaning that building works can proceed – with the opening of the primary provision planned for September 2026.

James added: “The prospect of an all-through school at Houlton is an exciting one. The children and young people will still have their own distinct areas to play, learn and socialise – but they will also be able to benefit from shared resources, facilities and opportunities.

“Primary aged children, for example, will be able to experience science labs and have access to specialist teachers for subjects like languages, and older children will have some amazing leadership and mentoring experiences. It is a win-win situation for everyone.”

Staff and children at Henry Hinde Infant and Junior Schools will be spending the next 12 months working together on plans to move to one site at the start of the 2026 academic year.

Currently the two school sites are 300 yards apart, and already share leaders, curriculums and approaches. This move will make logistics much easier for many of our families and provides an exciting opportunity to reimagine the learning environment and maximise resources to provide the very best for our children.

James said: “The site of the Junior School has so much space for our children to play and learn, and there are lots of possibilities to develop the existing building to ensure that there is an amazing environment for slightly younger children.

“In fact, bringing the two schools together on one site feels like a natural



conclusion to years of work – and the fact that there is a decreasing birthrate in the immediate community meant that now felt like a good time to take that next step.

“By joining together, we can focus more of our finances, resources and investment on what happens in the classroom – and less on the buildings and infrastructure.”

The fact that both announcements have come together is not something that the Trust had planned.

“As with anything, these are not decisions that we have taken in isolation. They are the product of either months of discussions or based on opportunities that have presented themselves to us,” stated James.

He added: “However, the fact that we are announcing these two exciting pieces of news at the same time does make it feel like a milestone moment – and the start of another new and exciting chapter for our Trust.”



## Mayor's Special Appreciation Award

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We're proud to report that Tommy Lloyd, a former Henry Hinde and Ashlawn School pupil who now works in TLET's finance team, has received the Mayor's Special Appreciation Award.

Tommy joined TLET as a trainee accountant last year after completing his Sixth Form studies and also volunteers as a governor at a local primary school - despite gradually losing his mobility as a result of Muscular Dystrophy. His inspirational story caught the attention of Mayor Barbara Brown, who presented him with the award at Houlton School.

Tommy, who was diagnosed with the muscle wasting condition when he was just six, wants to encourage youngsters to believe they can achieve their dreams. He said: "It's hard for young people anyway, let alone people with a disability. You have to focus on what you can do rather than what you can't.

"My life is a challenge physically and mentally so being able to work on something I really enjoy is important and motivating for me.

"I would say to anyone who feels like they can't achieve, they can - they just need to find something they enjoy and focus on that."

The former Henry Hinde and Ashlawn School pupil said he was very excited to be given the opportunity to train as an accountant - something he'd always wanted to do.

On receiving the Mayor's award, he said: "I felt proud that I was doing a good job. I love my job and the people I work with, and I feel grateful to be given the opportunity. I felt happy I was recognised by the Mayor as a valued member of the team."

Mayor Barbara Brown said Tommy was 'a true inspiration'.

She added: "His determination to overcome the challenges he faces every day is matched by his ambition to make a positive difference to the world, both through his work at TLET and his voluntary role as a governor.

"He's an amazing example of what can be achieved through passion and positivity, and really represents the best of Rugby."



Credit: The Rugby Observer / Marcus Mingins





### Pupils step back in time to D-Day

Year 6 pupils at Henry Hinde School recently took part in a moving and memorable D-Day experience.

The event, delivered by Mr Edwards, brought history to life as pupils listened intently to the personal stories of those who lived through World War Two and learnt about what it was like to be part of the D-Day landings in Normandy. Pupils also had the chance to take a look at some real wartime artefacts, deepening their understanding of the past.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde School, said:

“As the years pass by, it remains incredibly important to teach our pupils about one of the most significant times in modern history.

“The children learnt about the courage, sacrifices and hardships faced by ordinary people during the war, as well as how it has shaped our world today.”





## Student leadership inspires

As part of their school-wide Student Leaders Programme, Ashlawn School pupils have been supporting younger pupils across the community this term.

From designing a dinosaur themed DT workshop for Year 2 pupils at Henry Hinde School to delivering Humanities lessons for Key Stage 2 classes at English Martyrs Primary School, the student leaders have shone.

They have also had an important role to play in welcoming new Year 7 pupils who will be joining Ashlawn in September, sharing their experiences of life at the school and running fun activities to make them feel at home.

Stephen Darby, Vice Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "Our leadership programme has really helped our pupils to stretch themselves further, volunteering their time and taking responsibility for a range of projects – like the primary school lessons.

"It has also been fantastic to see our student leaders supporting younger pupils – something that brings so many benefits for everyone."



## Enriching experiences at Houlton

Houlton School's Curriculum Enrichment Week was the perfect way to end the academic year.

With three residential trips, including a French residential, a visit to Barcelona and PGL residential trip to Barton Hall, Year 10 Work Experience, several UK day trips and a plethora of back at base activities taking place there were lots of opportunities to try something new.

Michael McCulley, Principal at Houlton School, said: "After a very busy year when everyone has worked so hard, our Cultural Enrichment Week provides a chance for our pupils to take a moment to explore the world around us, to broaden their horizons and discover new talents.

"Alongside our incredible residentials, some of this year's highlights have included a London Theatre trip, a visit to the Snow Dome, a Bake Off challenge and even a languages themed escape room.

"It has been a week full of growth, fun, and unforgettable memories."







**Deliver Excellence**

We strive to achieve our best.

## Set the Stage

Congratulations to Connor, a Year 12 student from Ashlawn School, who is one of just 16 young people from across the country selected to take part in BAFTA and EE's 'Set The Stage Project'.

The initiative aims to provide the chance for talented teenage filmmakers to produce a short film under the mentorship of BAFTA-nominated actress Daisy Edgar-Jones and award-winning industry professionals across storytelling, production, cinematography, costume design and direction.

Connor will now attend an immersive training programme run by the Young Film Academy (YFA) this summer, which will see the young filmmakers work together to craft their short film which is set to premiere next year.

Paul Brockwell, Principal at Ashlawn School: "We are so proud of Connor on this brilliant achievement and can't wait to hear all about his experience."



## Celebrating 65 years of commitment: Henry Hinde School bids farewell to retiring staff

Pupils and staff at Henry Hinde School are bidding a happy retirement to Principal, Fleur Edwards, and two much-loved Learning Support Assistants – Karen Caldwell and Sandra Evans – who have collectively given an incredible 65 years' service to the school community.

Mrs Edwards, who initially joined Henry Hinde as deputy headteacher in 2012, is set to retire at the end of the summer term after 13 years at the heart of the school. While Mrs Caldwell and Mrs Evans, who both started their roles on 27th September 1999, will aptly retire on the same day this July.

To mark the occasion, members of the Henry Hinde School community – past and present – were invited to share their memories, with a celebration event also held at the school to say a big 'thank you'.

James Higham, CEO at TLET, said:  
"As with so many people who work in

education, Mrs Edwards, Mrs Caldwell and Mrs Evans have always gone above and beyond to do the very best for our children.

"It is hard to overestimate the impact that these wonderful colleagues have had on so many lives throughout their time at Henry Hinde.

"They have seen generations of children starting their primary school journey here, making a difference for families right across the local area and supporting countless staff.

"On behalf of everyone at Henry Hinde School and the Transforming Lives

Educational Trust we'd like to wish them all the very best for a long and happy retirement."

Fleur Edwards added: "It has been a huge privilege and honour to be part of the Henry Hinde family for so many years.

"What makes our school so special is the people – our incredible pupils, their families and all of the inspiring colleagues I've been lucky enough to work with every day. I have so many fond memories and immense pride in all that we've achieved together."



## Thank a Teacher Day

On Thank a Teacher Day, we came together to celebrate and recognise the incredible dedication of staff across our Trust family.

We want to express our thanks to every member of the team who goes above and beyond to support our children and young people every day.

Our thanks also go to the brilliant Sixth Form students at Ashlawn School who held a Coffee and Cake breaktime event as a thank you to the school's teachers and support staff.

They wanted to recognise the National Day and many baked their own delicious cakes which they served up to staff in our Sixth Form Centre. Well done everyone!





## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Pupils at Ashlawn School and Houlton School have been working hard to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh's Awards (DofE) – widely recognised as the world's leading youth achievement award.

In a test of resilience, teamwork and determination, the Year 9 to Year 13 pupils have been completing their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards which include a combination of volunteering, physical and skills challenges as well as a final outdoor expedition.

Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal at Houlton School, said: "Alongside essential survival skills, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award supports pupils to develop valuable qualities such as leadership, communication, and independence.

"It's a fantastic opportunity to help young people grow in confidence and character and is highly regarded by universities and employers alike.

"A huge well done to all involved—you should be incredibly proud of your achievements."



### **TL** Transforming Lives EDUCATIONAL TRUST

The Transforming Lives Educational Trust is making a real difference to the lives of over 2,500 young people across Rugby. **We are looking for Trustees** with a broad range of experiences to help shape how we nurture potential, inspire communities and deliver excellence.

**Your expertise where  
it matters most.**

To find out more about becoming a trustee, please contact us at  
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