

AUTUMN/WINTER 2021



Merry
Christmas

Welcome from the CEO

As always, the first term of the academic year has been an incredibly busy time at the Transforming Lives Educational Trust. There has been so much to recognise, celebrate and be proud of across our school communities.

In September we were delighted to welcome our very first cohort of Year 7 pupils to Houlton School. After many years of planning and preparation, it has been incredible to witness this brand-new school coming to life and to see our founding pupils flourishing with us.

The start of term was also an opportunity for us to bring staff from across the Trust together for a day that focussed on our shared vision of **Transforming Tomorrow, Today**, something that underpins all that we do, every day.

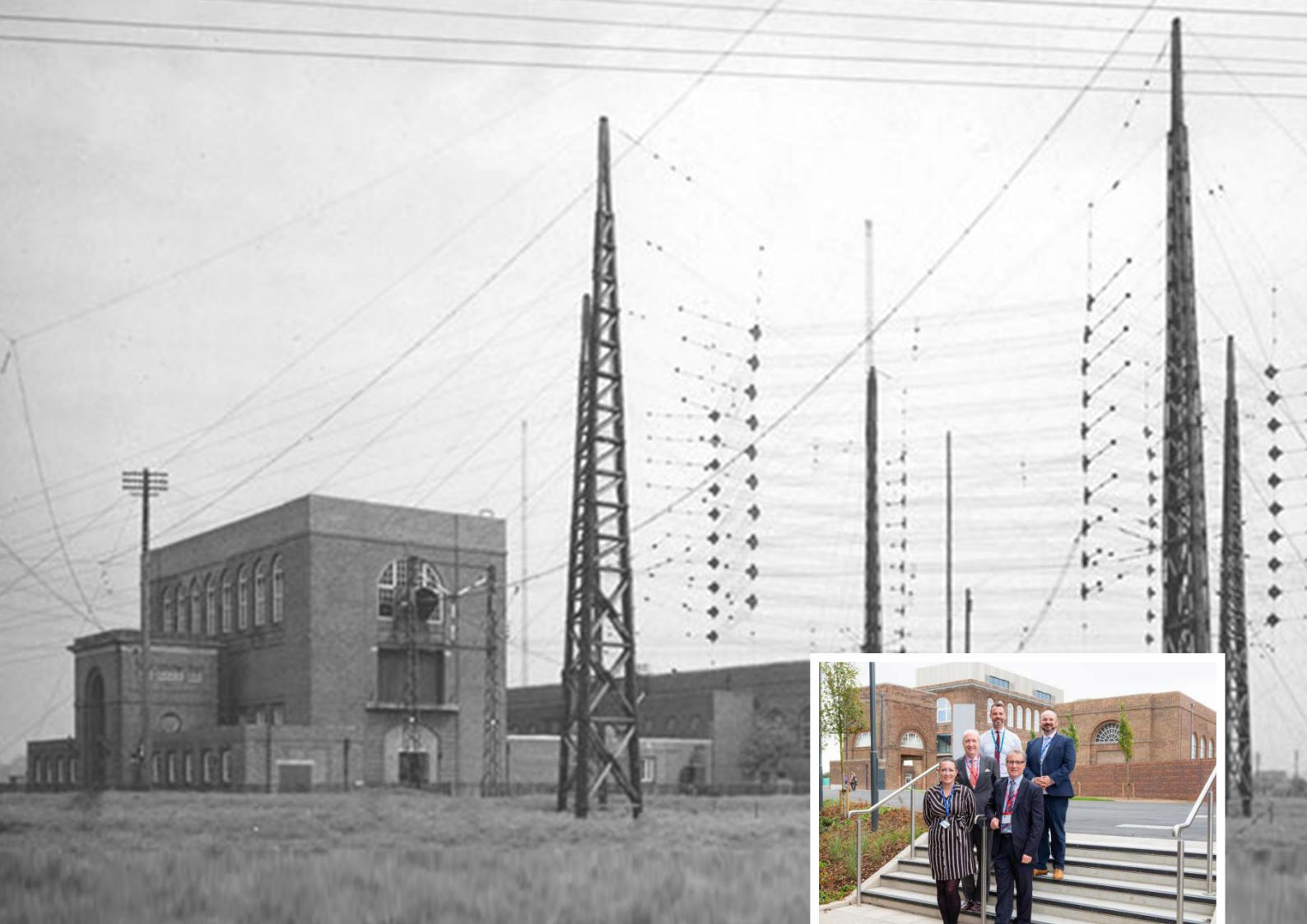
As our pupils have settled into their new year groups, they have enjoyed exploring exciting topics across the curriculum and showcasing their talents and achievements. They have also been thrilled to take part in exciting events that have broadened their horizons and created many memorable moments with their class mates.

Over the last few weeks, as Covid-19 has begun to hit the headlines once more, I have been reflecting on what we have been through together over the last couple of years and the way that our community has come together in

the face of adversity. For me, and the team across our Trust, this has made us even more determined to do all that we can to prepare for the future of our pupils' education, working together to continue to provide the best possible opportunities for our children to shine. Whatever changes may be taking place in the outside world - our pupils come first, always.

Wishing you all a restful, enjoyable and safe festive break.

James Higham
CEO



Houlton School is praised by Mark Pawsey MP

The transformation of the iconic Rugby Radio Station into Rugby's newest secondary school has been praised by the town's MP during a tour.

Mark Pawsey joined founding pupils and staff of Houlton School to explore the new site, which officially opened its doors to 180 Year 7 pupils in September.

He was joined by Nigel Hugill, Chief Executive of Houlton developers Urban&Civic, Johanne Thomas, Regional Director for Communities at Urban&Civic, and Houlton School's Principal, Michael McCulley, for a tour of the school.

Standing in the historic Grade II-listed Rugby Radio Station's Transmission Hall, which is now at the heart of the school campus, Mr Pawsey saw how many of the building's original features have been restored to link the new school to the heritage of the former Rugby Radio Station.

He was also shown the new school buildings – built as part of the two-year, £39million project to transform the site – which includes a humanities block and science labs.

Mr Pawsey said: "I've had the opportunity to see the development of Houlton School since work began and it was great to see the first cohort of Year 7 pupils enjoying the new facilities. The school delivers on creating a fully modern, state-of-the-art, educational centre whilst still recalling the

unique heritage of the former Rugby Radio Station building.

"It is also thanks to the hard work of Urban&Civic and those who worked on building Houlton School that it has been able to open on time, despite the challenges of the pandemic."

Johanne Thomas added: "We were keen to show Mark just how resilient Houlton has been through this challenging period – from all perspectives. Transforming a listed building into a school, through a global pandemic, has been a huge challenge but made possible through the commitment of our contractors and partnership with Principal Michael McCulley and Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET)."

Michael McCulley, Principal at Houlton School, added: "It was an honour to take Mark Pawsey on a tour of our finished school.

"As a new school, we have had the great privilege of building our community from scratch. We have taken so much inspiration from the iconic heritage and stunning architecture of our location, and have developed a campus featuring state-of-the-art facilities that will provide so many world class opportunities for our pupils."

The start of the academic year provided a unique opportunity to welcome staff from across our schools for the first annual TLET conference.

The event, which focussed on the Trust's vision of **Transforming Tomorrow, Today**, brought colleagues together for a day of collaboration, innovation and creativity, setting the focus for the year ahead.

Opening the conference, guest speaker and award-winning author, Will Hussey, described the concept of 'The Art of Being Brilliant', something that resonated with everyone in attendance. He said: "In education, cultivating mindset alongside curriculum is key. We must all believe in better.

"The challenge for us is to prepare our children for the future, equipping them with the tools to be their very best and to be adaptable to whatever comes next. This includes being able to adapt to change, whatever that may look like.

"Every interaction with a child or young person is an opportunity to nurture their potential, to cultivate attitudes, aspirations and behaviours in order to make a difference. We should encourage everyone to have passion, take ownership and make connections. Each stage of progress is important."

James Higham, CEO of TLET, added: "In the incredibly busy life of working in schools, the first annual TLET conference has provided an important opportunity for us to reflect on

our vision and to focus on our aspirations for the year ahead.

"Transforming Tomorrow, Today is a simple phrase that says so much. As a Trust – in all that we do, every day – we are focussed, unapologetically, on transforming the life chances of others, and this is what today's event is all about.

"During the pandemic, we saw the enduring commitment of everyone across our schools to double down and ensure that our children and young people got the very best education during the most difficult of times. We are now absolutely determined to focus on preparing our pupils for the future, and supporting them to excel.

"Whatever the circumstance, we are committed to providing a springboard for our children, young people, and staff so that they become exemplary citizens who strive to stretch their potential and become transformers in a diverse and ever-changing world.

"Our values of loyalty, excellence, bravery, tenacity and kindness act as our guide as we pursue this vision, and underpin all of the incredible work that our staff and volunteers carry out across our school communities."





Artistic autumn leaves

Thanks to a fundraising idea from the Friends of HHIS, a colourful autumn tree has been brightening up the hall at Henry Hinde Infant School.

The tree, featuring autumn leaves designed by children from across the school, was created to raise funds for new classroom visualisers, with children contributing £1 donations as part of the initiative.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School, said: "I never fail to be amazed by the hard work and

commitment that our Friends of HHIS put in to raising additional funds for our school and I can't thank them enough for all of their efforts.

"The children were so excited to create their leaves and then search for them on display in the hall. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces."



HHJS Exhibition

As part of their Project Based Learning Curriculum, pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School have been showcasing their learning in an exhibition for parents.

Jennie Nurse, Principal at Henry Hinde Junior School, said: "We were pleased to welcome so many parents to our exhibition and to show them all of the brilliant work that has been taking place this term.

"The pupils' displays looked fantastic, and parents were very impressed with their confidence and pride as they spoke about their learning."

Houlton School holds its first Pupil Forum

Pupils from across Houlton School's six Colleges have had the chance to represent their peers during the first Pupil Forum.

As part of the session, pupils shared ideas on how to continually improve the Houlton Family and ensure that everyone's voice is listened to. Pupil Fora will now be held fortnightly and will offer the chance for everyone to be involved.

Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal, said: "Our founding pupils have a valuable role to play in shaping our school as our community grows. Their thoughts and ideas will contribute directly to our plans for the future as we welcome more pupils year-on-year."





Exploring Oliver Twist

Pupils from Years 7 to 13 at Ashlawn School have had the opportunity to watch a live production of Oliver Twist from Leeds Playhouse.

The production, which was created in association with Ramps on the Moon, featured integrated sign language, audio description and captioning – as part of a commitment made by seven major UK theatre companies to putting deaf and disabled artists and audiences at the centre of their work.

Here's what Pupils said:

'It was wonderful to experience live theatre from the comfort of our own Drama Studio!'

'I found it amazing!'

'I really liked the inclusivity.'

'I loved how it was a range of different actors with different abilities.'



Secret Santa

Staff at Ashlawn School are looking forward to Secret Santa with a twist for 2021.

Siobhan Evans, Principal at Ashlawn School, said: "Last year, rather than buying gifts for each other, our staff came up with the idea of purchasing gifts for our vulnerable students. The response was overwhelming and we were happy to be able to deliver the presents to our students (and in many cases, their families) in the days leading up to Christmas.

"For many of us, seeing the happiness this brought really was the highlight of the year, so for 2021 we've decided to widen our efforts and encourage other schools across the community to take part too!

"We've also received some incredibly kind donations from pupils, parents and members of our wider community.

"My thanks go to everyone that has contributed. This is exactly what the Christmas spirit is all about."