

AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
* FROM TLET *

Welcome from the CEO

Perhaps this year, more than any other, the winter term appears to have rushed by.

It seems like only yesterday that we were welcoming our new pupils and staff to our school communities – yet here we are at Christmas!

It has certainly been a busy term, with so much to recognise and celebrate across our academies.

This edition of our Trust newsletter features just some of the highlights.

I am absolutely delighted to report that Henry Hinde Junior School has received its strongest Ofsted outcome in a generation, while Houlton School has also recently been named a 'World Class School'.

Amongst the many exciting learning experiences that our pupils have had access to this term, we are also celebrating

neurodiversity grants and arts awards at Ashlawn School and sporting achievements at Henry Hinde Infant School.

As a Trust we are committed to Transforming Tomorrow, Today – for our pupils and our communities.

I never fail to be amazed by the talents of our wonderful pupils and would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff who do their utmost to inspire and support them every day.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable festive break.

James Higham

CEO

Transforming Lives Educational Trust

The pupils and staff at Henry Hinde Junior School are celebrating after Ofsted praised the school and gave it the strongest Ofsted outcome it has had in nearly 15 years.

The inspectors gave the school, a 'GOOD' rating in every category, noting that pupils are "happy coming to this rapidly improving school."

Inspectors also commented that: "following significant staffing changes, improvements to the quality of teaching and to the physical environment, pupils now learn well." The report continued "behaviour in class and around school is good...Pupils are polite, friendly and welcoming."

The report goes on to praise leadership at the school. It is noted that: "Leaders have high expectations of, and for, all pupils. Leaders want pupils to enjoy and be enthusiastic about learning. They have thought about the learning experiences pupils need to be successful in the future."

Jennie Nurse, Principal, joined the school last year. She said: "This is wonderful news, and this rating truly reflects what a happy school we are."

"It is fantastic to hear that pupils, parents and our own staff are so enthusiastic about what we do. Our school is moving forward with real pace and purpose, but we are not losing sight of the fact we have a very supportive and nurturing environment. That is why the inspectors noted how wonderfully welcoming Henry Hinde Junior School is."

The role of leaders in the pupils' learning was also addressed in the report, saying: "Leaders have rightly focused on



ensuring that pupils read well, widely and with enjoyment." As a result, the inspectors found that: "By the end of Year 6, most pupils read well for pleasure and research. For example, one Year 6 pupil told an inspector, 'I'm enjoying reading this classic novel; it was my grandad's favourite.'"

The wider needs of pupils at the school were also highlighted. Inspectors reported that: "Pupils have opportunities to take on roles in school." The report continued by reflecting on the pupils' enthusiasm for their choir, charity work and recent residential trip.

James Higham, CEO, added: "This is simply brilliant news for Henry Hinde Junior School."

"Over recent years, at every level, the school has seen significant improvement and investment. It is testament to the whole community that the school has now got its best Ofsted grading in a generation."

"Despite this success, this commitment to enhancing the education our children receive will not stop. This is just a signpost on the journey that we are on, to transforming the life chances of the children and communities we serve."

Learning about life in Roman Britain

This term, as part of their Project Based Learning, Year 4 pupils from Henry Hinde Junior School visited Bosworth Battlefield, to explore the Roman artefacts that were found by archaeologists at the site.

While the children were visiting, they learned about what life was like in Roman Britain and found out more about Boudica – joining a re-enactment of her army, as well as having the chance to speak to a Roman soldier.

Jennie Nurse, Principal, said: "It's such a privilege to be able to enrich pupils' learning with experiences like this."

"It was a great opportunity to take learning out of the classroom and really bring the Romans project to life."

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE DAY

On 11th November, schools across the Trust marked Armistice Day through a range of school-wide events, special assemblies and classroom-based activities.

At Henry Hinde Infant School the whole school fell silent to remember those who gave their lives for us, while Year 2 pupils also helped to raise money for the British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School took part in a range of classroom activities, exploring poetry and accounts of life as a soldier in the two world wars.

At Houlton School, alongside writing their own war poems, pupils and staff

came together to honour those past and present in our armed forces, as well as remembering those who lost their lives on the campus when it was formerly an airfield for RAF Lilbourne.

While at Ashlawn School, some pupils and staff once again chose to attend the school's Remembrance service in their uniforms for the community organisations that they represent, with senior students reading In Flanders Field and an extract from For the Fallen.

Fleur Edwards, Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School, said: "School can be such a busy place from when our doors open first thing in the morning to the very last thing at night.

"It was therefore even more poignant that in this hustle and bustle, we came together, in silence, to remember those brave people who have kept our country safe."



Neurodiversity group grant

Ashlawn School's Neurodiversity Group has just received confirmation of a £1,000 grant from the Sheila Coates Foundation - a charity that seeks to enable secondary schools to think creatively and innovatively in supporting autistic pupils.

The grant will go directly to supporting the further development of the Neurodiversity Group as well as supporting the wider community to understand and celebrate neurodiversity.

In addition, the funding will also allow Ashlawn to create a dedicated sensory space, which will be of huge benefit to pupils at the school.

Jayne Delves, Senior Vice Principal, said: "We are incredibly grateful

for the support of the Sheila Coates Foundation.

"Our Neurodiversity Group is such an important part of our school, so we are thrilled to be able to further enhance the support we can offer for our pupils."

Reception children at Henry Hinde Infant School have been exploring Diwali and how it is celebrated around the world.

Also known as the 'Festival of Lights', Diwali is one of the major religious festivals of Hinduism and is also celebrated in Jainism and Sikhism each autumn.

To mark the occasion, the Henry Hinde pupils found out more about the different traditions that are observed as part of the festival and tried their hand at some Diwali crafts, including making Diya pots using clay.

Fleur Edwards, Principal, said:
"The children had a fantastic time learning all about Diwali.

"It is so important to teach our pupils about different religions and cultures, and to celebrate the wonderful diversity of our world.

"Everyone was so excited to have a go at making their clay pots, they did a brilliant job!"



Houlton School achieves 'World Class Schools' status

Pupils and staff at Houlton School are also celebrating following the news that they have been awarded the World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM) – joining an exclusive network of 120 of the best non-selective state schools across the UK for the quality of educational experience on offer.

In order to gain the coveted accreditation, the school took part in an entirely pupil-lead assessment process, where pupils were tasked with completing a series of challenges to showcase what makes their school World Class.

Throughout the assessment process pupils demonstrated a plethora of leadership skills and attributes, as well as taking on project management lead roles in last year's Assessment Centre Day. All of the work leading to the successful accreditation was completed by pupils in Key Stage 3, something normally supported largely by Key Stage 4 and 5 pupils. This is a significant achievement for the school and has made pupils and staff very proud.

Michael McCulley, Principal, said: "Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our wonderful pupils and staff,

I'm delighted to confirm that Houlton School has achieved the World Class Schools status.

"Having opened our doors for the first time in September 2021, this feels like an even more significant achievement for our Houlton family, as in many cases our pupils were significantly younger than other young people that were taking part in the process.

"The level of talent and maturity shown by our pupils throughout each challenge, however, made me incredibly proud."

The World Class Schools Quality Mark (WCSQM) is awarded by an education charity of the same name, whose unique assessment framework assesses the pupils not the school, for their demonstration of 'world-class' skills and competencies. Pupils participating in the programme are encouraged to recognise and achieve their potential through unique real-life work experiences, access to a lifelong peer support network and cultural opportunities that take them beyond their local community.

James Higham, CEO, added: "My congratulations go to everyone at Houlton School for this tremendous achievement.

"Alongside providing an opportunity for pupils to develop World Class characteristics, this accreditation highlights the exceptional learning environment that Houlton School has to offer for every member of its community."



At the very start of the academic year, 400 colleagues from across our schools joined together for the second annual TLET conference.

This year's conference, entitled 'Thinking about YOU', offered the chance for staff to take part in activities that will support them at work, as well as looking after their well-being.

This included a range of workshops and activities, designed to promote wellness and provide strategies for juggling busy working lives.

Following the event, one staff member said: "It's great to work for a trust where staff well-being isn't just a buzzword. I truly feel valued as a member of TLET. Thank you!"

James Higham, CEO, added: "Our dedicated staff have a shared commitment to providing the best possible opportunities for the young people in our care, to broaden their knowledge of the world around them and to inspire them to achieve their dreams.

"In return, we believe it is our duty to offer our best for our people too."



Ashlawn art students showcase their work at Rugby Open 2022

This month saw the launch of the Rugby Open 2022 – an exhibition of contemporary art at Rugby Art Gallery, in which no less than 11 Ashlawn School students have their artwork on display.

The hardworking Sixth Form students submitted their entries, that were lovingly created as part of their A-Level Art courses.

Following a tough competition, we're also pleased to confirm that Ashlawn student, Emma, was named the overall winner of the exhibition's Youth Category. In their feedback, the judges said: "Emma's work is moving and technically brilliant."

Nici Seadon, Head of Art and Design Technology joined the talented students for the exhibition's opening night. She said: "Our students never cease to

amaze me, it really is an honour to be their teacher.

"I'd like to congratulate each of the students on this fantastic accomplishment and also give a special mention to Charlie, one of our former students who has had their work exhibited at the Royal Academy London recently."

If you would like to go along and see the Rugby Open 2022, the exhibition is free to attend and open until 4th February 2023.



Pupils and staff at Houlton School recently took part in this year's Restart a Heart Day – an initiative that helps raise awareness of cardiac arrest and the importance of teaching CPR skills.

As part of the event, Year 7 pupils at the school had the chance to take part in CPR training, while Year 8 pupils have also been revisiting the CPR knowledge they gained last year and learning about defibrillators.

Chloe Buckenham, Vice Principal, said:

“Performing CPR can more than double the chances of survival in some cases of cardiac arrest, so we feel it is vitally important for our pupils to know what to do in such an emergency.

“Each of our pupils handled the topic with such maturity. We like to think that learning how to save a life is Houlton's new superpower!”



New-age Kurling and Boccia champions

Year 2 pupils at Henry Hinde Infant School have taken part in a new-age Kurling and Boccia competition as part of a local sports partnership.

Even though they had never played the sports before, the children picked up the techniques incredibly fast and displayed lots of natural talent – taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in both their competitions.

Kylie Coulson, PE Co-ordinator, said: “I was so proud of the way the children represented the school.

“They were so well behaved and showed all our school values throughout the event, working together as a team and supporting each other every step of the way.”

Sporting success

Huge congratulations go to Izzy, a Year 8 pupil from Ashlawn School who recently won a gold medal at the British Schools Trampoline Competition. Izzy now qualifies for the Zonal round in January 2023.

Congratulations also go to Jacob, in Year 9, who competed in the first athletics indoor competition of the season and qualified for the indoor nationals in the 60m hurdles, 60m sprint and the high jump.

We wish them both lots of luck in the next round of their competitions.