



Welcome from the CEO

This term has been an important one as our Trust has laid down our foundations for our future.

At the heart of this was the launch of 'The TLET Way', our three ambitions which are underpinned by the transformative values of courage, kindness and loyalty.

While work around this has been progressing for a significant period of time, it started to come to life at our staff conference in September where colleagues were challenged with the task of understanding their own role in how, collectively, we can bring the new TLET ambitions to life.

It was a truly fantastic day, and I was impressed and heartened by how our community came together to look at the next phase of our journey as a Trust.

There is already a huge amount for us to be proud of, but coming together to share ideas about how to improve our individual agency in what we are looking to achieve felt like a milestone moment.

Since then, as this newsletter begins to show, we have achieved a great deal – and I look forward to what 2024 has in store for us.

Thank you for everything you have done to support our brilliant young people over the course of the last year.

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.



“Decisive action” praised at Ashlawn School

Ashlawn School welcomed the outcome of a recent Ofsted visit – where inspectors praised leaders for taking “decisive action to help move the school forward”.

The monitoring visit, which is the first time inspectors have visited Ashlawn since the school was regraded from Outstanding a year ago, looked at every aspect of life at the school during a rigorous inspection process. At the conclusion, inspectors found that the school had “wasted no time in addressing the areas that needed to improve” so that “everyone feels valued and part of Ashlawn’s future”.

Paul Brockwell, Principal, said: “A huge amount has been achieved over the last 12 months to ensure that Ashlawn is a place where every young person can thrive, and we are extremely pleased to see Ofsted recognise all the hard work being undertaken by students, staff and our wider community.

“We have reviewed and enhanced every area of school life, and the impact of that is tangible. Ofsted noted real improvements in our curriculum, culture and the support provided for young people with additional needs. In fact, inspectors were on the cusp of taking the relatively unusual step of turning this monitoring visit into a full graded inspection in recognition of how far we have come.

“When inspectors return over the next 12 months, we will be even further ahead in our improvement journey. I am really excited about what we will be able to further achieve during this time.”

The monitoring report praises the Trust and school leaders for making swift changes, and noted that “together as a school community, you have set about creating a new clear and coherent vision for the school.”

Changes to improve behaviour and attitudes at school were highlighted, with the report outlining how “sensible changes to the school day”, along with consultation on a new behaviour policy with the wider school community had driven improvements in behaviour and attitudes.

Improvements to SEND provision at the school were also noted, including a restructured inclusion facility, a new system of information sharing and strategies for effectively adapting learning opportunities



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for SEND pupils, along with plans for further improvement with the “introduction of new learning plans to monitor the impact of any interventions that are put in place”. Improved delivery of the school curriculum resulting from leadership coaching and cross-departmental learning groups were commended, as was a new literacy strategy and development of a whole school reading culture.

The school’s inspectorate also praised the “strong strategic oversight of the school’s work” undertaken by Governors and trust leaders, and how “they are using the trust’s capacity effectively to help provide support and challenge to school leaders.”

TLET CEO, James Higham, said: “It is fantastic to see all elements of the Ashlawn community work coming together with such pace and purpose to make the required changes and improvements.

“It is a real team effort, but what is most impressive is the sense that the work is not yet complete. While huge strides have been made, we need to further embed all the good practice that was evident to the inspection team. We will continue to work in partnership with school leaders to keep up these measures, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to flourish.”

Under the current Ofsted framework, the inspection team should now return within a year to undertake a full graded inspection.



Reception pupils settle into school life

The newest additions to the TLET family have settled in well to Henry Hinde School over at the Grenville site.

The children in Reception braved their first steps into school life and are now flourishing! Their very first topic this term was that of themselves and their families, with pupils learning and sharing interesting facts about what makes them unique.

The children have been looking at pictures of themselves and their families and, inspired by artist Frida Kahlo, making some beautiful self-portraits. As part of the topic, the children also talked about the pets that formed part of their families, and even got to welcome some of their pets into school! Pupils had a lovely morning

learning about pets and what they eat, drink, need to live and like to play with.

Fleur Edwards, Principal, said: "We are delighted to welcome the 2023 Reception class to the Henry Hinde family and hope their time with us is happy, successful and they achieve their full potential, academically and socially. Starting school can be daunting so the first topic is designed to give children a sense of security and comfort as they share about their own lives, as well as helping them to get to know one another and make new friends."



Pupils exhibit this term's learning

Pupils and staff have been delighted to welcome parents to a series of exhibitions about this term's learning at Henry Hinde School.

The school's Project-Based Learning (PBL) approach to the curriculum allows children to become fully immersed in their learning. Each project is based around a "Big Question" and combines history, geography or science with other subjects from the wider curriculum.

The final element of each PBL project culminates in an exhibition. Parents and carers are invited into school to see and celebrate all the fantastic work that pupils have produced as part of their PBL project.

Here's some of the highlights:

- Year 3 visited Compton Verney as part of their topic learning about the Stone Age and even tried building with wattle and daub

- Year 4 debated who did more for Britain, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, or the Vikings?
- Year 5 held a day dedicated to the Ancient Egyptians
- Year 6 held a World War II Day, and learned about people's perceptions of evacuees during WWI

Principal Fleur Edwards said: "We love to see the culmination of all the hard work that has taken place each term! Through these exhibitions we are providing children with an authentic audience which encourages them to develop essential life skills that prepare them for the real world. They always rise to the occasion and show such pride in their work. Well done everyone!"

High profile visits to Houlton School

Houlton School welcomed some high profile visitors this term, with both Department for Education Regional Director, Mr Andrew Warren, and Ed Miliband MP (Shadow Secretary of State for Climate Change and Net Zero) coming to see the school's beautiful architecture and talk to pupils and staff.

Mr Warren was given an expert tour around the school by pupils Rhea, Loïc, Daisy and Erin, along with our Trust's CEO, Mr Higham and other guests, after which he thanked pupils for their enthusiasm, confidence and passionate articulation of Houlton's impressive heritage - and, of course, the school's core pillars of Innovation, Aspiration and Excellence.

Mr Miliband met Principal McCulley, pupils and staff and was very impressed with our Grade II listed campus' regeneration as a state-of-the-art school.





TLET Remembers

The TLET family of schools all marked Remembrance Day in their own respectful, empathetic, and creative ways.

Henry Hinde School held an assembly on the importance of Remembrance and Reception children created their own poppy paintings.

Houlton School came together in an assembly led by Mr Abbott, Mr Roy and Ms Divver to remember the fallen heroes of the past and to honour all of those who serve us today to keep us safe and free. Beautiful handmade poppies and a poppy wreath adorned a tree on school grounds.

Ashlawn School held a two-minute silence, and students were both respectful and reflective of the moment. Many students came to school in military and club uniforms to mark the occasion.

TLET CEO, James Higham, said: "I am proud of all our schools for helping pupils to understand the significance of Remembrance Day and how, by respecting and reflecting on the past, we can shape the future as individuals and communities."



Residential Activities in the Peak District for Henry Hinde School

Year 6 pupils at Henry Hinde school had an amazing experience this term, taking part in the annual Year 6 residential trip, this year at Willersley Castle in the Peak District.

The sun shined down as pupils got to try their hand at zip lines, canoeing and kayaking along with rock climbing, fencing, grass sledging and a 'blind trail' where pupils wore eye masks and used their other senses to navigate round a forest area!

Fleur Edwards, Henry Hinde School Principal, said: "The Year 6 residential is always a special experience and this year was no exception. It's a wonderful

way to mark a really important time in the lives of our pupils as they spend their final year together before making the transition to secondary school and it helps to create lasting bonds between friends and memories of their time as part of the Henry Hinde community.

"A HUGE thank you must go to all the staff for all their hard work. We certainly have some amazing staff and children at Henry Hinde!"



Learning Tae Kwon Do at Henry Hinde School

Reception children at Henry Hinde School took part in a Tae Kwon Do taster session this term!

The children all enjoyed having a go at using punches and kicks and now have the opportunity to join an after school Tae Kwon Do club where they can build on their skills.

Take a look at the children in action!



Houlton School County Lines Workshop

Houlton School welcomed Warwickshire Police this term to deliver a County Lines Awareness Workshop to Year 9.

County Lines workshops are designed to educate young people about the dangers of being groomed into drug trafficking by criminal gangs, raising awareness about the risks associated with county lines, which is a term used to describe the practice of gangs using young people to transport drugs and money from cities to rural areas.

The innovative session included using VR headsets to experience real life situations. Pupils really enjoyed taking part and learning about how to keep themselves safe.



Ashlawn School supports Rugby Food Bank

Students at Ashlawn School have made huge efforts to support Rugby Food Bank this term, collecting a fantastic 361kg of food to support the food bank's efforts to provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis.

Rugby Food Bank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by The Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

Paul Brockwell, Ashlawn School Principal, said: "We hope our donations help local families struggling during the current climate and are very proud of everyone in our school community who has supported our appeal."





Deliver Excellence

We strive to achieve our best.

Houlton School pupil takes 3rd place in World Kickboxing Championship

Year 9 Houlton School pupil, Mati, recently represented his country in the World Kickboxing Championships, which took place from 19-22 October 2023.

Mati competed for Team England, proudly representing the country as well as his club.

In his individual, continuous fight he took 3rd place securing the bronze medal. He was then proud to join Team England, and they took home the gold!

Huge congratulations, Mati, from the entire TLET family!



Awards season for Houlton School

Houlton School is celebrating a double win this term, with Russell Hill, Subject Team Leader – Creative, winning Silver in the Pearson National Teaching Awards, Outstanding New Teacher of the Year category, and the school taking home the RIBA Stirling Prize Award for Best Reinvention Project in the UK!

Mr Hill is a second career teacher, meaning that he only joined the teaching profession two years ago after a successful career in the Arts. Thanks to all the pupils, parents and staff members who contributed to the nomination and a huge congratulations to Mr Hill on his win!

Here's just one of the reasons why Mr Hill is a very worthy winner:

“My teacher Mr Hill has helped me in many ways. From the endless amount of advice to the encouragement to do my very best, coming to his lessons is always fun. I have grown in confidence

and skill and have been pushed to be bold, brave and excellent in all of my work. He has given me multiple opportunities to build on my talents and he deserves this award for the recognition for all of his hard work and effort he puts into his job. He puts a smile on everyone's faces and is an amazing teacher.” - Year 8 pupil

The school was also proud to have been shortlisted for the first RIBA Stirling Prize Award for Best Reinvention Project in the UK, and even prouder to win it on the evening!

Michael McCulley, Houlton School Principal, said: “It's always fantastic to be recognised for best practice and I am exceptionally proud of Mr Hill's achievement and all he brings to our school.

“Houlton School has already been recognised through many awards as an inspiring example of what can be achieved through the reuse of existing buildings combined with creative, energy efficient design solutions and it was wonderful to have this acknowledged by The Royal Institute of British Architects.”

