



## Welcome from the CEO

As the academic year draws to a close, we're pleased to share just some of the highlights from a busy and fulfilling summer term.

From international excursions and inspiring speakers to mathematical achievements and a visit from the circus, our schools have been buzzing with incredible activities.

Each story represents our collective commitment to doing all we can for our communities, nurturing well-rounded children and young people who are equipped with the skills, knowledge and values needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

We are also proud to place a great emphasis on being a community that cares for one another, showing

compassion and kindness to everyone, every day. These are threads that run throughout every part of life here at TLET.

There has also been much to celebrate this term. This has included recognising the efforts of hard working and dedicated colleagues across the Trust on 'Thank a Teacher Day', as well as acknowledging the incredible achievements of our pupils who never fail to amaze us.

Summer term ends on a bittersweet note, as we say farewell to the pupils who are moving on to the next stage of

their educational journey. You will always be part of the TLET family and we wish you all the best for the future.

As we approach the year ahead, we're also looking forward to welcoming the new pupils that will be joining us in September and can't wait for them to get settled in.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer break.

**James Higham**

CEO

Transforming Lives Educational Trust



## Henry Hinde Infant School prepares pupils for a ‘world of possibilities’

Leaders and staff at Henry Hinde Infant School have been praised for being “determined to improve the life chances of pupils” and ensuring that children are “ready for a ‘world of possibilities’”, during a recent inspection by Ofsted.

Fleur Edwards, Principal, said: “Inspectors were incredibly complimentary about the school and confirmed that Henry Hinde Infants will retain Ofsted’s ‘good’ rating.

“What is more important than any rating, however, are the many positive comments about our children, our staff and our community. One particular piece of feedback that stood out to me was that the children’s behaviour was exemplary, and inspectors could

see that our pupils feel very safe and secure here.

“One of our visitors also remarked that she was blown away by the language development of the children and safeguarding was also considered to be a fundamental thread that runs throughout our school.”

Inspectors also observed, for example, that “Parents and carers speak positively about the school. They

appreciate meetings about how to support their child at home. Many say that staff go ‘over and above’ to help their children.”

In addition, they said that “Pupils have positive attitudes to learning. They listen carefully and try hard in lessons...They are enthusiastic and like solving problems. Leaders and staff help them to develop curiosity and resilience. They encourage pupils to be independent from the start.”

### Other positive comments about the school community included:

- “Pupils work well together. They understand how to take turns. They are respectful and kind and follow the school rules. Pupils know that ‘a good friend takes care of you’. Pupils feel safe at school and are very well looked after.”
- “Adults in the early years prioritise speaking and listening. They focus on developing children’s speech and vocabulary so that they can express themselves clearly. They model good language at every opportunity and expect children to do the same.”
- “The teaching of early reading is a strength of the school. Teachers help pupils quickly learn the sounds that they need to read independently.”
- “Subject leadership is strong. Curriculum plans are appropriately sequenced. These, combined with effective teaching, ensure that pupils make strong progress across the curriculum.”
- “Pupils new to the school are assessed without delay. Support is quickly provided for any pupil in danger of falling behind.”
- “Staff provide effective support for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). They adapt their teaching effectively so that pupils can learn. Teaching assistants know pupils well. They help pupils with SEND to access the same learning as their classmates.”
- “Pupils take on responsibilities such as play leaders or becoming a buddy for a child in Reception. They take these jobs seriously. They talk enthusiastically about after school clubs like dodgeball and craft club.”

Henry Hinde Infant School has proudly been part of the Transforming Lives Educational Trust (TLET) since 2017.

## An exciting future for Henry Hinde

Over recent years, the partnership between Henry Hinde Infants and Henry Hinde Juniors has been growing, especially now both schools are part of our Trust family.

We've been able to see how working closely together holds enormous benefits for our children and staff. So, we're delighted to confirm that we now have the opportunity to bring the schools even closer together.

James Higham, CEO, said: "From September, we are going to change

the way that Henry Hinde Infants and Henry Hinde Juniors are led. This will include having one leadership team, that will be led by Mrs Fleur Edwards, who is currently the Principal at Henry Hinde Infant School. She will be supported by other senior leaders, who will work at both sites.

"Mrs Edwards will bring the schools together in similar ways of working so that they start to feel more like one school across two sites – Henry Hinde School.

"We're excited about what this change will mean for our children, staff and the whole Henry Hinde community!"



### Thank a Teacher Day

To mark this year's national 'Thank a Teacher Day' we took the opportunity to thank colleagues across the TLET family for all that they do for our school communities.

From surprising colleagues with treats in the staff room, to hosting special celebration assemblies and sharing thank you messages from pupils and parents it was our chance to take a moment and show our gratitude.

Sian Hartle, Director of Education, said: "It takes the passion and dedication of the whole team – leaders, teachers, support staff and others behind the scenes to deliver the very best for our children and young people.

"We're so proud of all our TLET colleagues and so grateful for the dedication they show every day. Thank you!"



### Pearson New Teacher of the Year Silver Award Winner

During our 'Thank a Teacher Day' celebrations, we were also pleased to announce that Russell Hill, Subject Team Leader for Creative at Houlton School, has won the National Pearson New Teacher of the Year Silver Award 2023.

Mr Hill's nomination was selected from thousands of entries for what are often called 'The Oscars of the education sector' and he was invited to a special winners' event held on the River Thames.

As part of the next stage of the awards process, Mr Hill's nomination has been shortlisted for one of just 16 Gold Awards, which will be announced and celebrated at a gala ceremony in London on 25th November and televised on the BBC, with winners showcased on The One Show.

**Fingers crossed!**

## Ashlawn welcomes Educating Yorkshire's Musharaf Asghar

Ashlawn School welcomed a very special visitor this term - Musharaf Asghar, better known to many as Mushy, one of the pupils featured on Channel 4's award winning documentary series, Educating Yorkshire.

Musharaf captured the heart of the nation when he appeared on Educating Yorkshire to document his struggles within education due to his impaired speech. Musharaf's journey through school resonated with millions of viewers as they watched him overcome his stammer and build his self-confidence, supported by his teacher, Mr Burton.

Demonstrating amazing resilience, Musharaf would practise his speaking skills every day by repeating lines from films in front of the mirror, knowing that he couldn't miss a single day or he would suffer setbacks with his speech.

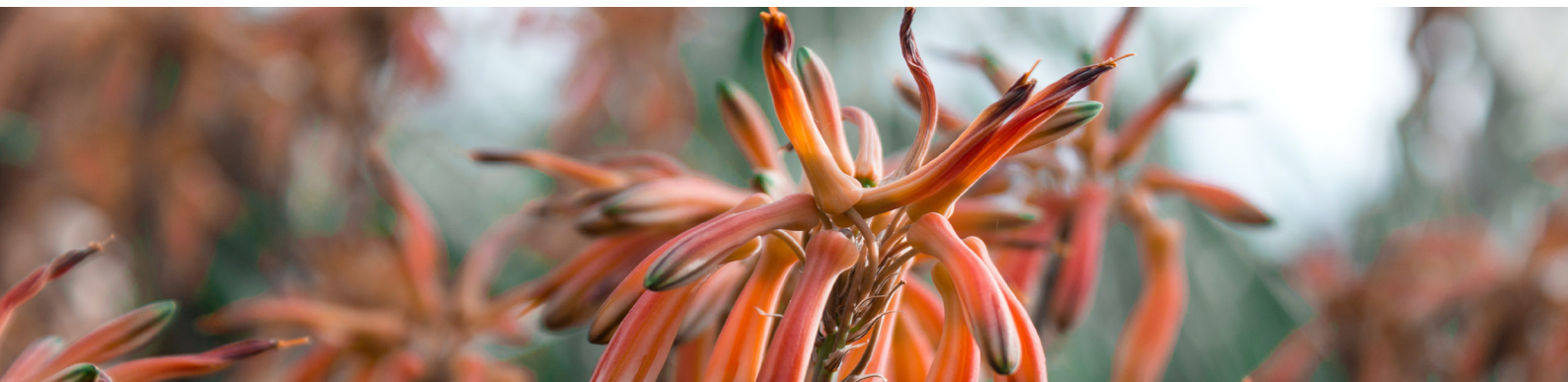
When the time came for him to leave school, Musharaf gave a speech to his peers in Year 11 and thanked the students and staff for their kindness -

there wasn't a dry eye in the house or for viewers at home.

Paul Brockwell, Principal, said: "When Musharaf spent the day at Ashlawn, he delivered speeches to each year group about the impact derogatory language can have on mental health and how this affects wellbeing. Musharaf encouraged pupils to think about their words and how the way they speak to and about each other can have far-reaching consequences that can last a lifetime.

"Musharaf also met with staff at the end of the day to inspire them to be 'that' teacher to a child, and to be that surrogate safe space that every child needs.

"This was a hugely inspiring and uplifting day and we cannot wait to welcome Musharaf back at some point in the future!"



## A trip to the Botanical Gardens

Year 5 pupils at Henry Hinde Junior School recently had the chance to visit the beautiful Botanical Gardens in Birmingham.

During the day the children took part in a teaching session all about the rainforest. This included looking at how things could be made from materials

found in the rainforest and finding out more about the indigenous people who live there.

After exploring the tropical and subtropical environments, there was also the opportunity to meet an African land snail, a corn snake, a bearded dragon and a hissing cockroach!

Back at school, pupils celebrated harvesting their first vegetables from the school's courtyard vegetable garden.

Miss Ison, Science Lead, said: "Earlier this year, we tasked each class with planting a vegetable of their own. So, in amongst the peas, potatoes and strawberries, it was a Year 6 class's radishes that emerged first.

"The children have thoroughly enjoyed seeing their vegetables grow and sampling their delicious homegrown produce!"

## Maths Challenge Success

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Earlier this term, 115 Year 7 and 8 pupils from Houlton School took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge - a 60-minute, multiple-choice challenge that encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems.

In the Junior Maths Challenge, the top scoring 50% of the entrants receive Bronze, Silver or Gold certificates based on their mark in the paper.

We are pleased to say that Houlton pupils achieved some impressive results, with 40 Bronze certificates, 19 Silver certificates and 8 Gold certificates.

On top of this huge success, six pupils who scored in the top 4% of entrants, were invited to take part in the Junior Maths Kangaroo, a follow-on round to the challenge, which will be taking place soon.

Miss Jasmine Etheridge, Head of Faculty: Mathematics and Numeracy, said: "In preparation for the challenge, pupils were invited to a support session and we were overwhelmed by the number of pupils who took this opportunity to further their learning.

"It was brilliant to watch pupils in different year groups working together on some of the problems and to see so many achieving awards as part of the challenge!"

**Congratulations to everyone who took part this year!**



## Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

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**Four Ashlawn School pupils have undertaken a range of training to become the school's first cohort of Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.**

Thanks to a partnership with the Diana Award - a national initiative founded on Diana Princess of Wales' belief that young people have the power to change their community, their country and the world - the pupils have been able to earn their Anti-Bullying Ambassador Accreditation.

Using their training, the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors are looking to the future. Working alongside Ashlawn's Senior Leadership Team, they are planning and implementing initiatives to provide support for those who need it and to encourage other pupils to become 'upstanders' who will stand up to and report any bullying behaviour.

Alongside this, the school has created an Anti-Bullying Charter, to be delivered to and signed by all pupils in September. This outlines that, as a school community, each member of the community understands what bullying is and the different formats it may take, and that everyone across community is committed to preventing it.

Paul Brockwell, Principal, said: "We're really pleased to be working with the Diana Award to get our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors programme up and running.

"The pupils have taken their responsibilities incredibly seriously and I know they are going to be excellent role models for their peers. As the programme expands and we enlist more pupils to become trained Ambassadors, it will be fantastic to see representatives across each of our year groups."



## Henry Hinde Infant School's Got Talent!

### A group of talented staff members from Henry Hinde Infant School recently appeared on Britain's Got Talent!

They were part of The BIG Sing Community Choir, a group that brings together people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures for a shared love of singing and music. It's fair to say the famous judges - Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon - were blown away by the performance of 'Brighter Days' with the group receiving four resounding yes votes.

Fleur Edwards, Principal, said: "We were all so proud to see our talented colleagues performing on national television.

"The children were amazed and inspired to see the joy that singing can bring to so many."



## Cheerleading Superstar!

### Henry Hinde Junior School pupil, Ellora, recently returned from her incredible trip to Florida where she competed in The Cheerleading Worlds competition.

Ellora is a talented and dedicated cheerleading athlete and regularly showcases her exceptional skills and passion on an international stage.

We did a Q+A with Ellora to learn more about her remarkable achievements in this sport!

#### Q. What is your cheerleading team called?

A. My team is called Quicksilver at Coventry Tribes. We are all named after Marvel teams.

#### Q. What position are you in the team and what skills do you need?

A. I am a front spot and base. We had to work really hard as a team to qualify for the competition and to go to Worlds, we needed to work with a fully qualified American choreographer. Some of the stunts can be dangerous so it requires a lot of focus to make sure nobody falls over and gets injured.

#### Q. What was the competition like?

A. When we were backstage, we didn't do a full out before our first round. A full out is when you rehearse with the music; we just had to go straight on! We did do a full out before the second round though. The audience was bigger for the first round and it was overwhelming...but when we got on stage, we felt ready. The whole performance was shown on live TV and my whole family got together at home to live-stream it. I'm the youngest on my team and we came 28th out of around 100 teams.

#### Q. What words would you use to describe your experience?

A. fun, exciting, fabulous, amazing, extraordinary...and BIG!

#### Q. So, Ellora; what's next?

A. I'd like to join other youth teams and enter more competitions. When I'm older, I'd like to be part of the adult teams and maybe after that, become a coach.





## School Of Rock

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The atmosphere was incredible when Houlton was turned into the ‘School of Rock’ for three sold out performances earlier this term – the school’s first ever stage production.

After six long months of preparation and rehearsals, the pupils put on an incredible show for audiences including family, friends and members of the local community, as well as some very excited children from Henry Hinde.

Mr James Hunter, Subject Team Leader: Music, said: “The pupils were amazing, taking on board their coaching and rehearsals alongside a double helping of bravery to deliver the first Houlton School Show and one that will live long in memory.

“Massive thanks go to Miss Warde for her tireless work and encouragement of the pupils and Miss Forrest for choreography and adding the sparkle to the show.”

## Celebrating The King’s Coronation

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Staff and pupils from Henry Hinde Infant School and Henry Hinde Junior School were joined by parents and carers for one big picnic celebration to mark the Coronation of King Charles III.

Throughout the week all sorts of royal-themed activities took place across classrooms too, from creating crowns and flags to drawing pictures of the King and learning more about the traditions of this very British celebration.

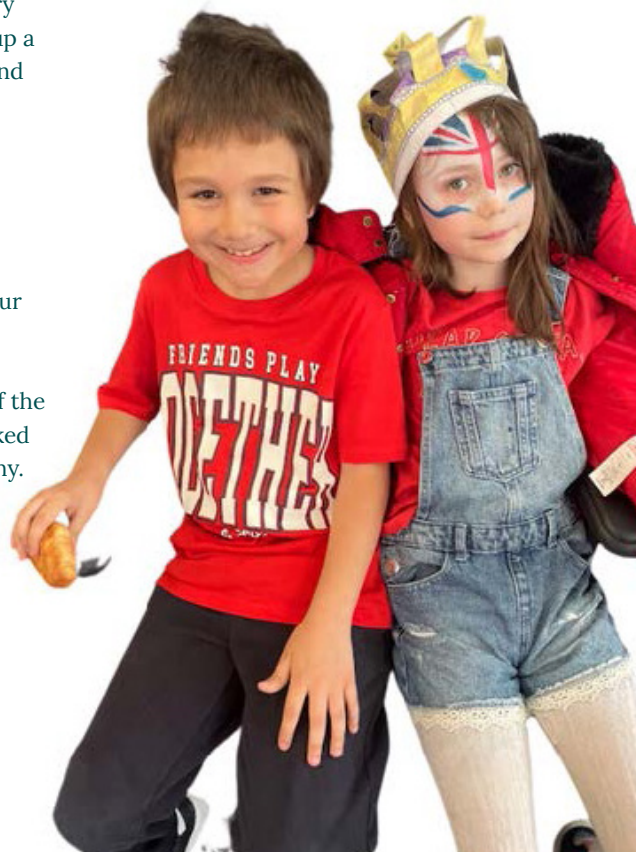
Jennie Nurse, Principal at Henry Hinde Junior School, said: “It was great to see all the children in red, white and blue, and to see all the amazing people in our school community get together.

“We must also congratulate our very own HHJS entrepreneurs who set up a stand selling handmade jewellery and hairbands, raising nearly £170 for school!”

### **Fanfare for former pupil at Kings Coronation!**

While millions of people across the world watched the Coronation of our new monarch, former Henry Hinde Infant School pupil, Kaitlin, was in Westminster Abbey itself, as part of the band playing the fanfares that marked important moments in the ceremony.

This was a fantastic honour, and we are all so proud of our talented former pupil!





## Experiences to remember

As is often the case across schools, the summer term has included a busy calendar of events and experiences for our pupils to enjoy.

For pupils at Ashlawn School there has been the opportunity for Year 10 groups to visit their French penpals at the Lycée Stéphane Hessel in Eprenay. While pupils studying German took a trip to Cologne and the Rhineland and the Spanish class spent three nights in Barcelona.

In addition, Ashlawn's Year 12 Politics students had the chance to visit the Houses of Parliament, touring the House of Commons and House of Lords and finding out more about the iconic buildings at the heart of our democracy.

At Houlton School there's also been a packed schedule of activities. This included the school's first international trip to Paris, with a variety of cultural opportunities including a

cruise on the River Seine and a visit to Montmatre as well as a tour of Monet's house and gardens.

Those staying in the UK didn't miss out either, with a visit to Warwick Castle as well as a Year 7 residential packed with outdoor adventure!

Michael McCulley, Principal at Houlton School, said: "We've been really looking forward to our first programme of residential and international trips here at Houlton.

"So many memories have been made with friends and classmates, it has simply been the perfect end to the academic year!"



When the circus  
came to town

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As we reported  
in the last edition  
of the newsletter,  
the whole Henry  
Hinde community  
was looking  
forward to the  
arrival of Happy's  
Circus this term  
– and it didn't  
disappoint!

Thanks to the incredible  
efforts of the schools' PTAs  
there was a fabulous evening  
of entertainment on offer.  
A huge Big Top took over  
the grounds of Henry Hinde  
Junior School, with incredible  
international artists and  
acrobats stealing the show.

Fleur Edwards, Principal,  
said: "A huge thank you to  
everyone that attended, the  
atmosphere in the Big Top  
was electric.

"None of this would have  
been possible without the  
amazing work of the Henry  
Hinde's PTAs. They have been  
working tirelessly over the  
past months, advertising,  
organising and planning  
leading up to the big day  
which ran so smoothly.

"Thank you also to the staff  
who gave up their Friday  
evening to run stalls and  
support the gate - you are all  
fantastic!"

Proceeds from the event will  
now go towards the PTAs'  
ongoing fundraising efforts.

