

# NEWSLETTER

Vol 2 | April 2021



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Enhancing outcomes for the communities we serve.

[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](https://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

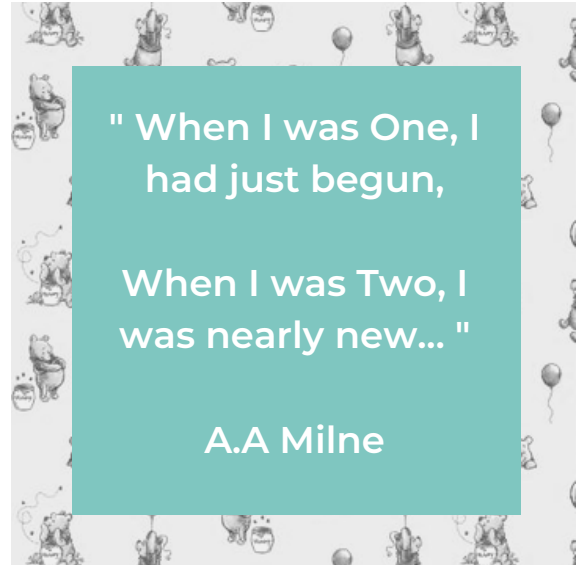
I cannot believe we are now into our second year as a Trust, and what a year it has been!

Over the Easter break, I was thinking about how new we still are as an organisation and how much challenge has been levelled at us in our first year, and yet how much you have all achieved.

There is something really exciting about being nearly new. We are all learning and developing our ways of working together, and as we move into the next phase (and hopefully a less virtual world), I am extremely positive about the opportunities, experiences and shared developments we will undertake together.

In our second edition of the Trust Newsletter, there are a whole host of ideas, updates and celebrations, which I hope will give you all a greater insight into the work across the Trust.

*Tammy Mitchell*  
CEO



Want to receive a copy of our termly Newsletter straight to your inbox?

[JOIN THE LIST](#)

# MEET BRIARY PRIMARY SCHOOL



## WELCOME BACK BRIARY

What a treat to welcome our whole school community back.



## BRIARY BIRTHDAY BAKERY

Birthday celebrations continue at Briary with the help of Mrs Wooton and her Birthday Bakery Team.

The children love celebrating classmates' birthdays, so Mrs Wooton and co have taken to baking birthday cakes for the children and delivering them to class.

Covid safe, and smiles all round!



## WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY?

Every month we have a wellbeing theme through the whole school. There are assemblies and activities for the children to complete in class.

For our 'Happiness' theme our wellbeing lead asked all the parents/carers to secretly write a letter to their child telling them what it was about them that made them, as their parent/carer, happy and then send it into school.

Once all the letters had been collected, all the children were given their letters on the same day in school. The response from the adults and children was amazing. There were tears of 'Happiness' from many, including staff! Feedback from parents was very positive too.

*"I loved being able to write some things down that I might not always remember to say"*

*"I thought it was a lovely idea, more positivity in the world"*

*"I loved that it was a surprise for the children and they both gave me the biggest squeeze after school, so I know they loved it too"*



# MEET BYSING WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

## BRINGING THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN

We love our wildlife at Bysing Wood!

You'll remember from our last issue; we named our pre-school Chiffchaffs thanks to our feathered friends' regular visits to the school. But did you know we also have an onsite Bird Box and live stream?

It's a wonderful resource for our school, and the children love it! Take science and learning about life cycles... we have the fantastic opportunity to watch this live with a new Blue Tit brood each year.



And science curriculum aside, bird watching is not without its drama... we've had Woodpeckergate when a Great Spotted Woodpecker tried to break in and eat the chicks. Then there was the House Sparrow invasion, all of which we saw live! And it's given us plenty of inspiration for our young artists.



You can follow our Bird Box on YouTube, search [Bysing Wood Primary School Bird Box Live Stream](#).

And exciting news we'll be adding a vole/shrewcam very soon.

Do you like nature and birds as much as we do? Want to learn more?

The RSPB offer a number of fun learning resources for children and families including:



### Wild Challenge

A range of fun activities focused on either Helping Nature or Experiencing Nature. Complete a series of activities and you can achieve a bronze, silver and gold award.

Naturally one of the activities is bird watching, so feel free to check out our Bird Box Live Stream to see our resident Blue Tit.



# MEET HOLYWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL



## HISTORY AT HOLYWELL

History provides children with an array of skills that can benefit them across the curriculum and beyond.

At Holywell, we encourage our pupils to develop a deep curiosity about and respect for the world around them and its history. Our curriculum enables all children - from Year R through to 6 - to develop investigative and research skills and think critically and embrace challenge.

Instead of year groups teaching discrete historical period such as, 'The Romans', we following a theme or thread of learning such as 'Conflict', 'Buildings and settlement', 'Beliefs' and 'Transport and Trade', following the theme through the ages to connect time periods, people, influences and events.

For example:

<b>Year 4</b>	Prehistory – hunter gatherers - Beginnings of small farms - Early wheeled vehicles and development of tracks and roadways - Exports – tin, copper, bronze	Romans - Trade routes – India and China Road systems (Watling Street) - Development of towns and cities Currency	Anglo-Saxons & Vikings - Landowners - Market Towns - Wool Trade - Seafaring – and early international trade	Ancient Civilisations – Egypt – the importance of the Nile as a trade route	Post 1066- - The development of the Railways - London as a centre for trade and commerce - the importance of the River Thames  Local History Study – transport routes, Chatham Dockyard, Faversham and Sheppey ports
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Teaching through this chronological approach offers clear evidence of how things evolved through time, enabling children to make valuable connections of how such transitions took place and how the world around us has changed over time

## WHAT DO OUR CHILDREN SAY ABOUT HISTORY?

*"I really enjoy history because you can see how well we have developed through time." Pupil, Year 6*

*"I like looking at things that happened in the past, before your time. I like seeing the changes through time". Pupil, Year 3*

*"I love learning about how people used to live and how different our lives are now. Our learning is fun and different." Pupil, Year 5*

*"I like it because it is fun to research the events instead of just being told about them." Pupil, Year 5*



# MEET QUEENBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



## ART AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO

### ARTSMARK

We're passionate our children have access to engaging and immersive artistic cultural experiences. Artsmark is a project that helps to bring art and culture to life, and our work has been awarded Artsmark at Gold status for the second time.

Our children consistently want to develop their skills, seeing them 'give their all' to something they feel passionate about is truly remarkable and evident across the school. Our children also appreciate the arts as a genuine career pathway.

*"...Your developing pedagogy in relation to children's input into what they learn, how they learn and how they record their learning supports your advocacy. It is very admirable that Queenborough is setting itself such ambitious targets, and we very much look forward to hearing how your continuing Artsmark journey unfolds."*

Senior Officer at Artsmark

### An eye for the dramatic

We are also proud to employ a full-time Drama Coach who leads Drama lessons from Nursery to Year 6 linked to the whole-school concepts of the term.



### Every child an artist

As an Arts Award school, we support our children in developing their creative and leadership skills and deepening their engagement with the arts. The award has positively spread through the school - every child has gained an Arts Award at 'Discover' level, and our Year 6 achieved an 'Explore' award. Moving forwards, the school's Arts Award advisors are encouraging 'Bronze' level progression for Year 6, which is very exciting! We're proud Arts Award champions and have been happy to share our experiences with others across the country.



### Music maestros

Our passion for all things art can be seen across the curriculum, we're a Music Mark school and work closely with Kent Music to provide Ukulele lessons to our children to supplement the taught Music curriculum.

*"I really felt like Queenborough was taking music seriously as a part of the curriculum and that you saw the opportunities to develop children through music. It is fantastic to have a school that is so committed and willing to support others on board on the island."* Kent Music Advisor.

Want to learn more about how the Arts work for Queenborough? Contact Us!

[queenborough.kent.sch.uk](http://queenborough.kent.sch.uk)



# MEET OUR TEAM

Meet Nicky Murrell, Headteacher of Briary Primary School in Herne Bay.

**EKC is a unique and special partnership... How is Briary and its community benefitting?**

We joined the Trust on 1st March 2020, and, of course, the whole country went into National lockdown on the 23rd. Being part of a strong community, we readily share knowledge and expertise across our schools. Last summer, we held a virtual Recovery Curriculum and Planning session ahead of the reopening for the new school year. We work together closely to deliver joint professional development. Also, it has been really helpful as someone new to headship to have three experienced Heads to turn to for advice and a CEO who knows Briary and its community so well. And whilst the pandemic may have slowed some of our grand plans, we're excited for years ahead.

**What can we expect from Briary over the next year?**

A year of something approaching normality would be lovely! But, joking apart, we are committed to 'Widening Horizons, Raising Aspirations' as a school. We very much want to do all we can to enrich the curriculum and enthuse our learners about the world of opportunities beyond our doors. If you don't know something is a possibility or available, available how can you dream about it or aspire to it?

We want to have a really close look at our whole curriculum offer, review it, question it and enhance it for our children and our community.

**As schools, you're forever inspiring your young people; who or what inspires you?**

Lots of people inspire me; I'm fortunate to work with many of them but someone, outside of school, who I think was particularly remarkable, was a young person called Hannah Francis.

Hannah sadly died in 2016 aged just 18, following a battle with an aggressive form of bone cancer. Hannah bravely and publicly shared her fight on social media and established a lasting legacy in the Wilberry Wonder Pony charity, which upholds a mission to "continue [#kickingcancersbutt](#) by funding bone cancer research and granting [#willberrywishes](#) to those who are ill with horsey dreams."

To achieve all this whilst suffering as she was, and at such a young age, is, I believe, truly remarkable and an example to us all. [www.willberrywonderpony.org](http://www.willberrywonderpony.org)



Joining Briary in 2016 on Secondment, Nicky loved it so much she never looked back! With over 20+ years of Primary teaching, she's taught across the phase, each class offering a "Yes! This is my favourite year group!" moment. With experience leading both Key Stages, she took the step up to Deputy Head on arrival and the rest, as they say, is history.



[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](http://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)



# REFLECTING ON... CATCH UP? RECOVERY? YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SICK TO GET BETTER.



There is absolutely no doubt that Covid-19 has impacted our communities and impacted children's learning.

But is it fair to label our current pupils the 'Lost Generation'? I think not! I think it's time we shift our gaze... to see the glass as half full rather than empty.

As professionals, we are often the most positive, enthusiastic and optimistic folk around, so let's shift to identifying and investigating our strengths and using this as the platform for developing ourselves, our schools and our communities.

Here are my three top tips:

1

Let's ban the words catch up and recovery, the connotations being broken, behind or failing. 2020 has not been without its challenges, and we will support pupils who have not made the social, emotional or educational progress they would normally have done. But it is also fair to recognise there have been positives too. Some children have enjoyed more quality family time than ever before. Some have relished and gained from independent learning over the busy classroom environment. Children have built on their resilience and adaptability, and equally, some have managed this very different experience with relative ease.

Understanding the starting point for every child and looking forward is the approach our schools have always taken. Let's support each other in maintaining the positive, aspirational approach that sets out a great learning journey going forward from wherever we start today.

2

Second, let's challenge ourselves to invest in our strengths! As individuals, we grow most in our areas of strength. Let's take our strengths seriously, leverage them intelligently and develop exceptional provision. Not only does it feel good to be working to our strengths, but it supports a virtuous circle of engagement and performance at every level.

3

Third, let's celebrate and learn from our successes! You know, the 'what went well?' question. This is an important question, but all too often, we jump ahead to look at the 'even better ifs'. Let's stay with the 'what went well?'; let's explore the what, the when and the how alongside the impact we've made. Let's investigate success as fervently as we investigate opportunities to develop provision. And let's help our colleagues do the same.

Your pupils are where they are because you supported them and they'll continue to achieve and be successful because you continue to look forward, think positively and keep getting better.



# WELLBEING FOCUS

The wellbeing of our school community is uppermost in our minds, particularly supporting our dedicated staff so they can continue to support our children and families.

Action for Happiness, a registered charity, have dedicated themselves to encouraging happier living.

We invite colleagues across the Trust and beyond to learn more about these keys and how you might apply them in your daily lives.

There's a wealth of resources on the website [actionforhappiness.org](http://actionforhappiness.org) and we'll continue to highlight them here.

## Monthly Wellbeing Theme: Active April

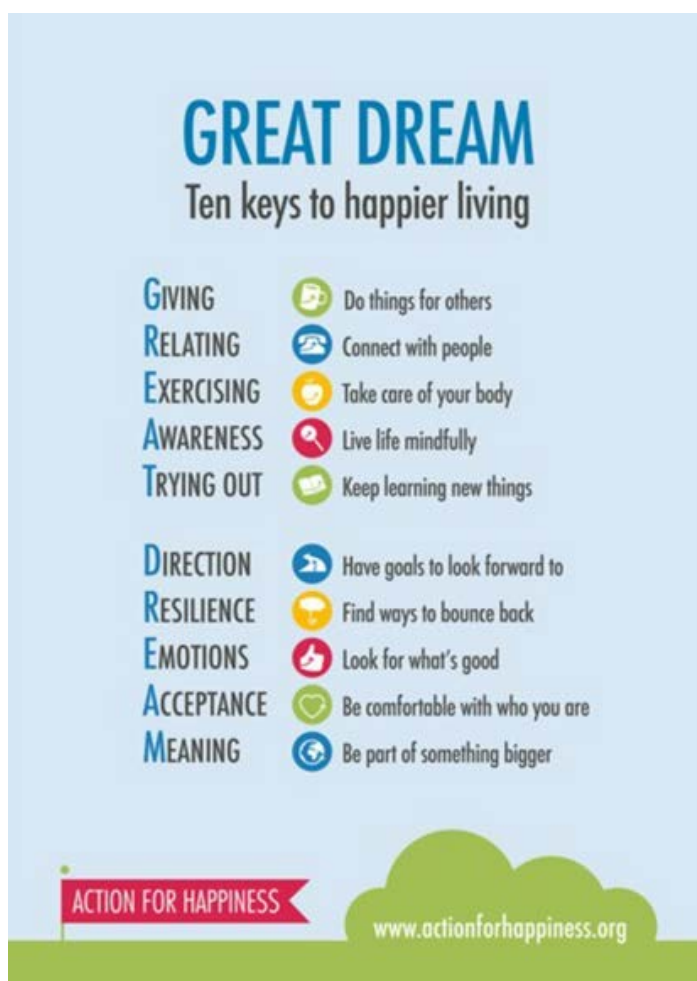
Keeping active is a great way to boost our sense of wellbeing. So this month AfH are encouraging everyone to get active and get outdoors.



Check out today's daily action and give it a go, take some time for you!

Why not sign up to be receive future themes and calendars right to your inbox.

Or if you like your Apps, check out the Action For Happiness App.



## Online events

Action for Happiness host a regular series of free online events with world renowned speakers.

## Upcoming events:



7pm, 29th Apr via Zoom



7pm, 11th May via Zoom

Here is one of our past favourites:



Click to book/ view or visit the [AfH website](http://AfH website) to learn more.

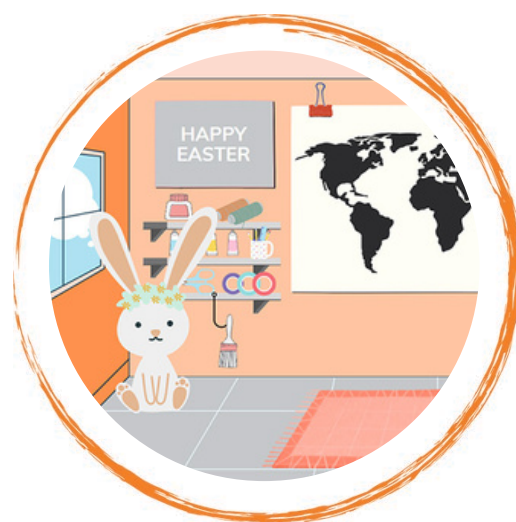
# NEWS FROM OUR COMMUNITY HUB

Serving our communities is at the heart of everything we do.

Each year together with our partners, the EKC Group, our children and young people and our colleagues, deliver a series of social action projects - inspiring and developing them as individuals and positively impacting our schools and wider communities.

## SPRING PROJECTS

Thanks to our friends, the Business Level 2 students at Sheppey College, children and families enjoyed a [virtual Easter activity hunt](#). It's still available on our website and we also have plans for a summer holiday activity pack.



## JOIN US

Learn more about our work and how, as families and schools, you too can get involved in our current projects:



[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](http://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)



# LOVE YOUR WORLD SOCIAL ACTION PROJECT

Each year, the children and young people of EKC Schools Trust and our partners the EKC Group deliver a social action project, inspiring and developing them as individuals and positively impacting the community.

**This issue we'd like to share with you the LOVE YOUR WORLD project and invite all schools and settings to take part.**

Hosted by the Canterbury School of Visual Arts (CSVA) at Canterbury College LOVE YOUR WORLD asks schools and students to design a card that shows what you appreciate and love about our perfect world.

Prizes will be awarded for the best card entries at the CSVA End of Year Show.

Shortlisted designs will be exhibited on their CSVA instagram page  
[www.instagram.com/csvacantcol](http://www.instagram.com/csvacantcol)

They will also be part of a collaborative exhibition in June 2021 AND a selection will be printed and sold as charity cards through Rock Paper Scissors, Canterbury.  
[www.rockpaperscissors.co.uk](http://www.rockpaperscissors.co.uk).

The winning designs will be selected by a panel made up of professional artists and designers.

All age groups are invited to take part the age categories are:

- Years 1 – 3
- Years 4 – 6
- Years 7 – 9
- Years 10 - 11
- Years 12 - Adult



Clare Owen



Andrew Lebedinsky



## Competition Rules

The design must be inside a square, and can be made in any medium or technique such as painting, drawing, collage, digital illustration, photography or even made from waste or recycled materials.

To develop your designs, learn new creative skills and engage with CSVA, check out their public online artistic resources at [www.facebook.com/CSVACantCol](http://www.facebook.com/CSVACantCol)

Be creative, and share the project to spread a little love.

**Deadline for entries is Midnight Friday 30th April 2021.**

## To Enter

Take a good photograph of your finished design and email it to

[csvafe@gmail.com](mailto:csvafe@gmail.com)

Please also include your name, age and school..

**GOOD LUCK EVERYONE!**

[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](http://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)







# BEE AMAZING

## SOCIAL ACTION 2021

Each year, the children and young people of EKC Group and EKC Schools Trust deliver a social action project, inspiring and developing them as individuals and positively impacting the community.

This year we've committed to BEE Amazing, undertaking projects to bring awareness to the vital role bees play in the natural world and the threats facing their survival. We're also encouraging plant bee-friendly planting.

*'If the bee disappeared off the face of the Earth, man would only have four years left to live.'*  
Albert Einstein

Visit our [Community Hub](#) to learn more about our three special projects and how you too can bee involved and bee amazing!

[www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust/community-hub/bee-amazing-project](http://www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust/community-hub/bee-amazing-project)

### GET LEARNING

Learn about how important bees are to our world, the threats facing their survival and what we can do to help through a range of activities and resources.

### GET CREATIVE

Our competition to educate our community, spread the word and promote our bees.

### GET PLANTING

We need bees! And bees need flowers! We're challenging Kent to get planting.

[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](http://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)



# CPD NEWS



We believe wholeheartedly in our moral purpose...  
to strengthen the opportunities available for everyone  
within our communities.

Educational Services, our professional development centre, provides our family of schools, partners and the broader education community with high-impact CPD opportunities that strengthen school improvement.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

This summer, we're hosting two incredible CPD events, starting with our [Virtual Inclusion Conference](#) in May and then our two day event [Achieving Excellence in Personal Development](#) taking place June and July.

INCLUSION  
CONFERENCE  
WEDS 19TH MAY 2021

With the Inclusion Agenda underpinning everything we do in schools, we're opening up this event to our partners and the wider education community as we explore best practices for creating inclusive and supportive learning environments.

ACHIEVING  
EXCELLENCE  
SOLD OUT  
PERSONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
JOIN OUR  
WAITING LIST  
21-22 JUNE & 2ND JULY  
2021

We're empowering leaders with a deep and accurate understanding of how to ensure Ofsted Outstanding for Personal Development at inspection.

So if, like us (and our 30 excited ticket holders), you want to explore best practice and be part of the discussion, join our waiting list\* for this two-day event.

\*We await confirmation of distancing guidelines and hope to be able to open up additional places.

Our events are open to our partners (Kent MAT Alliance and the EKC Group) and neighboring schools and settings.

If you'd like to learn more about these events, be part of the conversation and share in best practice you can find out more in the following events flyers and on our website.

[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](https://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)



# JOIN US THIS MAY FOR OUR VIRTUAL INCLUSION CONFERENCE

The Inclusion Agenda underpins everything we do in our schools, our culture, values and ethos, ensuring that every pupil is treated with equality, with affection and with the respect they deserve as the unique people they are.

The importance of inclusion is always front and centre in our schools, but it can be challenging to ensure every aspect of the agenda is current in our thinking.

Our conference with its abundance of speakers and workshops provides an opportunity to identify key areas that might need revisiting, a refresh or just a slight refocus.

## Event Programme

Your choice of incredible workshops and speakers.

### Dumbing Down or Levelling Up?

Tammy Mitchell, CEO EKC Schools Trust

### Unlocking the Language of Learning for Disadvantaged Pupils

Jason Howard, Deputy Headteacher and Teaching School Director

### Promoting Proactive Practice

Paul Owen, Dover Principal

### Different Families – The Language of Inclusion and Equality

Garry Ratcliffe, CEO The Galaxy Trust

### Developing Emotional Resilience

Clare Bush, Counsellor and Well-Being Lead

### Celebrating Neurodiversity

Jo Campbell, Director of SEND Development

### Trauma-Informed Practice

Steve Wickenden, Drama Coach & Wellbeing Support Mentor

### Creating Communication Friendly Classrooms

Susan Murray, Senior Speech and Language Therapist

### Creating an Inclusive Learning Culture

Tammy Mitchell, CEO and Summer Macer, Director of Operations EKC Schools Trust

#### Date:

Wednesday 19th May 2021

#### Time:

9.30 - 3.30

#### Location:

Online - Microsoft Teams

#### Cost:

£45 EKC Group & KMA Partners

£55 Other schools and settings

## Further information

To learn more and book your place visit [EKC Schools Trust](https://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust).

[ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust](https://ekcgroup.ac.uk/ekc-schools-trust)





JOIN US THIS SUMMER FOR OUR

# ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE IN PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

This two-day course will ensure your leaders have a deep and accurate understanding of how to ensure Ofsted Outstanding for Personal Development in your next inspection.

Through a series of workshop sessions leaders will explore every aspect of their Personal Development offer to pupils through;

- Promoting and evidencing the inclusive and unique ethos of your school
- Reviewing how your school context is reflected in your values and ethos
- Embedding the statutory SRE curriculum within your whole school curriculum approaches
- Ensuring clarity around your purpose and core offer in a succinct and effective way

Unpacking what you do brilliantly every day in a deliberate and meaningful way. Ensuring your intent and implementation has tangible impact.

This event is delivered by Tammy Mitchell, CEO EKC Schools Trust and partners.

## Date:

Friday 25th June AND Friday 2nd July 2021

## Time:

9am to 3.30pm start, finishing at 3.30pm

## Location:

Ashford International Hotel,  
TN24 8UX

## Cost:

£190 EKC Group & KMA Partners  
£217 Other schools and settings

## Further information

To learn more and book your place visit [EKC Schools Trust.](https://www.eckschoolstrust.co.uk)

Are you...

**A school/setting looking for fully funded, nationally recognised CPD opportunities for your staff?**

**A member of staff looking to develop your skills or learn a new hobby?**

**Interested in opportunities to support your community?**

DigitalLearn is a brand-new offer from our partners, the EKC Group, offering schools, staff and your families the chance to study for free and gain nationally-recognised industry-standard qualifications.

There are a wealth of courses to choose from including:

for Schools and staff

- Mentoring
- Understanding Children & Young People's Mental Health
- Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
- Cyber Security

for families

- Creating a Business Start up
- Digital Skills for Work
- Understanding Children and Young People's Mental Health

All at Level 2 and many more available.

And it gets better... courses are normally free subject to a postcode check, UK/EU residency for 3+ years and aged 19 or over. And there's a wealth of support.

**Want to learn more?**

Visit: [www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/colleges/ekc-digital-learn](http://www.ekcgroup.ac.uk/colleges/ekc-digital-learn)

Contact: 01303 858396

[enquiries.digitallearn@ekcgroup.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries.digitallearn@ekcgroup.ac.uk)

"We were told about the courses as we are one of the EKC Schools Trust Schools and the choice was impressive. I felt that developing some understanding of Mental Health at work would benefit my role as a teacher and governor, so I decided to take the plunge.

The course material was of a high standard and I loved the fact that I could manage the learning to fit in with my other commitments... I sometimes got so engrossed that time flew by, and I'd studied for longer than I intended.

I was well supported by my online tutor, who was swift with responses and gave tips for improving the learning, and though I didn't need support, I felt confident it would have been there if needed. It was just such a simple way to enhance my work skills."

Fi Gallimore-Stoker,  
Senior Leader, Briary Primary School

# LET'S ALL SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOLS

The national THANK A TEACHER campaign recognises all staff working in schools; school leaders, teachers, teaching assistants, and all support staff such as lunchtime supervisors, caretakers and cleaners. It celebrates the professionalism, passion and commitment of our schools.

Parents, colleagues and partners please take 5 minutes to thank an individual, team or school in our Trust (or other school/setting) for their hard work with a FREE Thank You e-card.

Not only is it lovely to receive a thank you but a card can be a springboard to entering the prestigious Pearson National Teaching Awards.

Please THANK A TEACHER today, it's simple, it's free and will make someone's day.

The THANK A TEACHER campaign is run by The Teaching Awards Trust and supported by Department for Education.



**Simply go to [www.thankateacher.co.uk](http://www.thankateacher.co.uk)**

**and they will send a FREE personalised ThankATeacher card on your behalf**

**If you're feeling shy you can send a card anonymously!**